

Israelis attacked in eastern Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Light arms fire was directed Saturday at an Israeli position in Lebanon's eastern sector, causing no casualties, the Israeli military command said. The incident near Kfar Khouk was the first attack along the Israeli line with Syria in the Bekaa Valley in more than a month. The command said it did not know who was responsible for the shooting, but in the past Israel has accused the Syrians of aiding Palestinian and Lebanese resistance forces in attacks against Israeli troops in Lebanon. A week ago, Israeli planes bombed targets on the Beirut-Damascus highway which Israeli military sources claimed as bases of Syrian-backed Palestinian fighters. In South Lebanon the Israeli occupation forces come under daily attacks by the resistance forces.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز من اجل الديمقراطية العربية
تحت اشراف مؤسسة الصحافة الاردنية "الراي"

Yemeni merger talks progress

ADEN (R) — Presidents Ali Abdullah Saleh of North Yemen and Ali Nasser Mohammad of South Yemen Saturday expressed their satisfaction at progress so far towards merging their two countries. A joint-communique issued here at the end of talks between the two presidents said they had agreed to continue efforts to merge their strategically-located Arab states, both of which overlook the Red Sea's Bab Al Mandeb entrance. While in Aden, Mr. Saleh co-chaired a meeting of the Supreme Yemeni Council with Mr. Nasser Mohammad. The council was set up in 1979 to supervise programmes aimed at merging the two states. The communique added they had agreed to hold the next council meeting in Sana'a in six months' time. President Saleh, who started his visit to Aden on Wednesday, flew back to Sana'a Friday night.

Volume 9 Number 2494

AMMAN, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19, 1984, JUMADA AWWAL 17, 1404

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

'Syrian goals would weaken U.S. clout'

BONN (R) — Syria's goals in Lebanon cannot be achieved without a weakening U.S. influence in the region, a senior West German Foreign Ministry official said Saturday. Alois Merles, secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry, told the newspaper Welt am Sonntag that he did not believe Syria wanted to go as far as annexing Lebanon. "Damascus wants to have political control over Lebanon and to deny Israeli security. It does not seek to annex Lebanon, but without a weakening American influence in the Middle East its goals cannot be achieved," Mr. Merles was quoted as saying.

U.S. to aid Turkish war industry

ANKARA (AP) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle said Saturday that the United States will help Turkey modernize its armed forces. At the end of a one-day Turkish-American defence group meeting, Mr. Perle said the discussions included programmes to provide modern tanks and aircraft. Mr. Perle told reporters at the U.S. embassy that the United States would deliver 15 F-4 Phantom jets to Turkey this year. Turkey also plans to buy 35 F-4s from Egypt. Washington approved the sale, but financing is yet to be worked out. Mr. Perle said.

U.N. chief concerned over U.S. move

BUDAPEST (AP) — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has again expressed concern about a U.S. threat to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). In an interview, carried Saturday by the state-run MTI news agency, Mr. Perez de Cuellar reportedly argued a U.S. withdrawal would weaken U.N. structure. "I am convinced that such steps could impair the universal character of United Nations membership, and universality is of fundamental importance in the system of the world organisation," he said. The U.N. official later left for Poland.

Karachi students hijack vehicles

KARACHI (R) — Students protesting against a government ban on their hijacked a bus and other vehicles and set one of them ablaze as Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq was on a visit here, police and witnesses reported. The students badly damaged two vans and a jeep which were later retrieved by police from the campus of the Karachi University, the witnesses said.

France grants \$67m to Tunisia

TUNIS (AP) — France Saturday signed a loan to provide 560 million francs (\$67 million) in food and financial aid to its former North African colony of Tunisia. The accord was signed in Tunis by French Minister for Co-operation and Development Christian Nucci and Tunisian Secretary of State for International Co-operation Ahmad Ben Arfa.

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Syria rejects 8-point plan, agrees to new proposals

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said Saturday Syria had rejected an eight-point Lebanon peace plan but had agreed on new proposals to be put to the Beirut government.

Saudi-Lebanese mediator Rafiq Al Hariri left for Beirut, presumably carrying the new peace proposals with him.

Prince Saud told reporters after a meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad: "Syria has rejected the concepts contained in the (eight-point) peace plan." But he added: "We have agreed on new proposals which we will convey to the Lebanese government."

Later, Mr. Assad said Lebanon's interest lay in implementing understandings reached at an all-party national reconciliation conference in Geneva last November.

The official Syrian news agency SANA said Mr. Assad made the comment during the talks with Prince Saud.

SANA said Prince Saud had presented to Mr. Assad "points that Lebanese President Amin Gemayel... sent to Saudi Arabia requesting that they be discussed with Syria."

The Saudi minister, who arrived in Damascus Friday night carrying a letter from King Fahd to Mr. Assad on the Middle East situation and the latest developments in Lebanon, left for home again Saturday night with a message from Mr. Assad in reply, SANA said.

It said that during Saturday's discussions, Mr. Assad "underlined the importance that the Lebanese government should implement what was agreed upon at the Geneva reconciliation conference, without additions or deletions, because it is there that the interests of Lebanon and its people lie."

Israeli patrol moves towards militia lines

BEIRUT (R) — An Israeli armoured patrol moved up to Lebanese opposition militia lines at the Damour River Saturday in an unusual show of strength that followed the collapse of an eight-point peace plan for Lebanon.

Spokesman for the two main militias, the Shi'ite group Amal and the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), said the Israeli column advanced to the southern bank of the river but did not cross into militia-held territory.

State-run television and the pro-government Falangist Party said four tanks and about eight armoured personnel carriers penetrated as far as Khadde, site of a vital road junction that fell to the opposition forces in heavy fighting with the Lebanese army earlier this week.

Amal leader Nabih Berri was called to the telephone in the middle of a news conference and later told reporters that the Israelis had reached the village of Naameh, five kilometres north of the river but south of Khadde.

He was heard giving his militia orders to resist if the Israeli patrol moved up to the junction, which controls one of the main roads from Beirut to the Druze Shouf Mountains.

In Damour, PSP and Amal militiamen said the patrol totalling about 30 vehicles including tanks. They said it stopped at the Damour River before returning south.

"They knew if they came any further we would open fire on them, so they turned back," said Hassan, an Amal fighter dressed in khaki fatigues.

He said the Israelis had fired at the verges on either side of the road — a common Israeli tactic against ambushers — but there were no exchanges between them and the militias.

Israel expresses deep concern over Lebanon, page 2

Palestinian students voice support of PLO chairman

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Supporters and opponents of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat at the ninth Palestinian Students Congress worked out a compromise agreement at the end of their meeting Saturday.

The pro-Arafat faction, which held 22 of the 33 seats at the congress, blocked all attempts to amend the final resolution in a way that would condemn Mr. Arafat for visiting Egypt after his forces evacuated Tripoli, Lebanon, at the end of December.

Instead it characterised the visit, which was roundly condemned by Syria and dissident PLO factions, as "a personal initiative" — essentially the same language used by Mr. Arafat's own Fatah organisation.

Egypt was cut off from and denounced by most of the rest of the Arab World after signing a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

But the resolution also included a clause recognising Syria's "political weight" in the Middle East and calling for "a programme of common work" involving the PLO and Syria.

Observers said the final resolution reflected both the pro-Arafat majority's power and that majority's willingness to accept compromise and avoid a split in the student organisation.

The Palestine Students Congress is an arm of the general union of Palestinian students, which represents about 40,000 Palestinian students around the world.

lement. "Lebanon is dying," he said, raising a familiar theme in a tape recorded statement broadcast by the state radio. "If there had been excesses or misbehaviour, they will be looked into and abusers punished. This is all understandable, but the most important thing now is to save the country, because Lebanon is dying."

Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem announced at a news conference Friday that Mr. Gemayel had agreed to scrap last year's accord with Israel, but only as part of the eight-point plan.

Mr. Gemayel's readiness to abrogate the pact been reported for days, and opposition Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt, who has repeatedly called on Mr. Gemayel to resign, said Thursday the eight-point plan was "too little, too late."

Nabih Berri, leader of the Shi'ite Muslim militia "Amal," (hope), which allied with PSP forces took over West Beirut two weeks ago, did not reject the Saudi-mediated proposals.

"I don't say it is dead now," he told reporters at a news conference Saturday. "In my opinion many things in this plan, you can discuss it. It is discussable."

The Amal leader said his priority was to get Mr. Gemayel to admit responsibility for shelling large areas of the mainly Shi'ite southern suburbs some 10 days ago.

The shelling did extensive damage to residential areas and sparked off the unexpectedly successful militia uprising that drove loyalist army units out of West Beirut.

Mr. Berri said Mr. Gemayel, his army broken and his foreign allies fast abandoning him, no longer had a military option, but Amal preferred to get its demands through the constitution than by following up its military victories.

Fighting erupts at Beirut's 'green line'

BEIRUT (AP) — Fighting erupted across Beirut's "green line" and in the hills above the U.S. Marine base early Saturday, while Syria rejected a proposed eight-point peace plan for Lebanon.

Government troops used tank and mortar fire from mid-city positions around the Sodeco intersection against the Shi'ite Muslim "Amal" militiamen firing small arms and rocket-propelled grenades from West Beirut, police reported.

They said the night-long clashes, which trapped hundreds of families in basements and bomb shelters, were the heaviest since Shi'ite Muslim militiamen wrested control of the capital's predominantly Muslim western half from President Amin Gemayel's army two weeks ago.

Loud explosions were booming through Beirut at daybreak. Police said 15 people, including two soldiers, were killed and 27 were wounded at the Sodeco crossing of the "green line" that splits Beirut into mainly Christian and Muslim sectors.

On the first mountain ridge east of the capital, the army's hard-pressed 8th Brigade held off probing assaults during the night by Syrian-backed Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militiamen on the strategic town of Souk Al Gharb that overlooks the American Marine base at Beirut airport, police said.

Shi'ite leader mourned

Most shops and offices in West Beirut and in large parts of South Lebanon stayed closed Saturday in protest at the killing of Sheikh Ragheb Harb, a Shi'ite Muslim leader who led the opposition to Israeli rule in the south.

Several hundred demonstrators marched from a West Beirut mosque towards the southern suburbs carrying banners and shouting anti-Israeli slogans.

Amal leader Nabih Berri told a news conference that Israeli agents were behind the killing. Israel was so frightened by resistance to its rule it was resorting to extermination, he said.

Beirut residents struggle to survive, page 2

As he spoke, Italian troops in the Beirut Multi-National Force (MNF) were waiting alongside trucks loaded with containers for orders to start moving out.

Military sources said the Italians would drive their heavy logistical equipment to Beirut port Sunday morning ready for shipping. Personnel would start leaving within days.

In Rome, the Italian news agency ANSA said most of the Italian contingent would leave Beirut within 48 hours.

Riyadh disclaims plan

Meanwhile Saudi Arabia Saturday disclaimed any connection with the eight-point plan and said the Riyadh government has not issued any peace plan for Lebanon, according to the Saudi Press Agency.

Citing an unidentified government source, the agency said that the kingdom "never put forward any specific plan" for a solution to the Lebanese stalemate.

"The (kingdom's) efforts have been focused on reconciling and merely bridging points of view of all factions," the agency quoted the same official as saying. "We acted between the various (bickering) Lebanese factions on the basis of our solid conviction that there is a common interest binding all views and ideas."

However, the kingdom "will pursue its efforts" for security, stability and prosperity in Lebanon, the official added.

The statement was a surprise to most Arab diplomats in Gulf capitals. These diplomats have been convinced that the eight-point plan was a modification of the Saudi "security plan" which the Riyadh government issued last month.

White House confusion prevails over pullout; Americans prefer complete withdrawal, page 2

Gemayel fights for political survival, page 4



A Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party militiaman displays a shell fired by U.S. battleship New Jersey on militia positions last week (AP wirephoto)

Jordan holds Libyan government responsible for embassy arson

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of Libyan agents Saturday stormed the Jordanian embassy in Tripoli and burned it down, and Jordan said the Libyan government bears full responsibility for the attack.

The Foreign Ministry issued a statement here which described the incident as a "criminal attack which was in violation of all principles and laws, and conflicts with Arab and Islamic values and morals."

The statement said: "At 1 p.m. Saturday the Libyan government directed a group of its agents towards the embassy in Tripoli who surrounded the building before storming it and setting fire to it. The ambassador and embassy staff were inside the building at the time and they narrowly escaped from the fire which engulfed the embassy."

"Libyan Television had on Thursday evening issued a call to various Libyan groups to gather in the Green Square in Tripoli which is close to the embassy building, at 9 a.m. Saturday morning, shortly before the time set for the attack. The embassy staff had noticed the presence of Libyan police surrounding the embassy and neighbouring streets, and when inquired about the measures they were told that the police were there to offer protection to the embassy from a demonstration scheduled to take place Saturday."

"The Foreign Ministry strongly condemns this criminal attack and regards the Libyan government totally responsible for it and its consequences."

Iraq, Iran agree to U.N. team, but Tehran rules out mediation

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq and Iran have both agreed to accept a new U.N. fact-finding mission to inspect damage in the 40-month-old Gulf war, but Tehran warned Saturday it would not hold political discussions with the group.

In Baghdad, a military spokesman said Iraqi warplanes late Friday night flew over 12 Iranian cities, including Tehran where a 25-minute air raid alert was sounded, in a demonstration of air power.

In New York, a U.N. spokesman said Friday that Iraq had agreed to accept a new mission from the world body to look into charges by both sides in the conflict that civilian areas were being bombed.

Iraq accused Iran of having made "cheap propaganda" out of the previous mission in May last year which found devastation in civilian areas of both countries.

Iran's national news agency IRNA quoted Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati

Saturday as agreeing to accept the mission but telling U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that it should exclude political discussions from its mandate.

Diplomatic analysis said this appeared to rule out any hopes for mediation the U.N. might have entertained for the mission.

Iraqi warning flights

Iraq said Saturday it sent its mock air raids over Tehran and 11 other cities deep inside Iran during the night were "a reminder of the capabilities of the Iraqi air force."

An official communique said the Iraqi jets did not carry out any attacks in compliance with a government decision last Tuesday to halt retaliatory strikes against Iranian cities for a seven-day period ending on Monday.

The communique warned Iranian air strikes will resume when the moratorium deadline expires at 1200 GMT next Monday because Iran had not responded and was continuing to its air raids and artillery shelling of Iraqi cities.

The warning flights extended over Tehran and the holy city of Qom, both about 600 kilometres east of the Iran-Iraq border, and the cities of Qazvin, Sarok, Majimabad, Kolinjan, Razan, Ishtian, Malabar, Shal and Zihabad, the communique said.

The mock air raids came as a major battle continued to rage about 160 kilometres east of Baghdad on the third day of a new Iranian offensive.

Iraqi newspapers carried reports from the battlefield saying Iraqi forces had killed "at least 2,000 soldiers of the Iranian division that launched the new offensive."

The newspapers Al Thawra and Al Jumhouria both reported that Iraqi helicopter gunships were carrying out raids against Iranian positions, joining with tanks and combat patrols in chasing the defeated enemy forces.

The heavy fighting has been raging along the border close to the Iraqi town of Badrah.

Kuwait denies peace bid

Meanwhile, the Kuwait government Saturday denied a newspaper report saying it planned a fresh initiative to mediate an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

The Kuwaiti daily Al Rai Al Aam Friday quoted reliable sources as saying Kuwait had contacted Baghdad and Tehran on the possibility of sending an envoy to mediate in the war and was awaiting their replies.

A government spokesman said Saturday Kuwait was only planning to send an envoy to Tehran next week with a message for Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati in reply to a message he sent last week to Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

better for us to take additional areas along the coastal axis which we do not control now," he added. The Israeli cabinet reportedly considered three options for changing its deployment in Lebanon: withdrawing from the city of Sidon, where Israeli soldiers have come under particularly heavy attacks, moving south 12 kilometres to the Awali River or pulling south 30 kilometres to the Litani River.

The opposition Labour Party is urging a total Israeli pullout and the creation of a "security belt" within 35-40 kilometres from the border with Lebanon, to be policed against commandos by local Israeli-backed Lebanese militias and United Nations forces.

Reagan says American peace efforts still alive

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Friday took issue with critics of his administration's policies who contend that U.S. efforts to negotiate peace in the Middle East have collapsed.

"I call it unfair," Mr. Reagan said as he dropped by a White House press briefing session on women's issues.

Later, at a luncheon for elected women office holders, Mr. Reagan acknowledged the Middle East peace process "has been painfully slow. But we must continue to search for peace and stability as long as there is a chance to bring it about."

He said the United States has been striving for peace in that region for 35 years. "The most recent outbreak of violence reaffirms the importance of redoubling our efforts to find a peaceful solution to the fundamental problems of the region and we're trying to do just that," he said.

In earlier comments, Mr. Reagan said that Syria, "for its own self-interest purposes, has been the stumbling block to preventing some of these proposals, with regard to broadening the base of the (Lebanese) government."

Mr. Reagan, who approved a plan Friday to begin withdrawing U.S. Marines from Beirut to navy ships offshore this weekend, also said the Multinational Force, of which the Marines are a part, has served a useful purpose.

"There's a majority of the people there (in Lebanon) who are not fairly represented in the government and the Gemayel government has been proposing plans for altering that and trying to get a consensus government that would give proper representation to all these other people," Mr. Reagan said.

"The very fact that that's come about, I think, is due to the presence of the Multinational Force," he said.

Critics of Mr. Reagan administration policies have said U.S. influence in the Middle East is waning because of Lebanese President Amin Gemayel's decision to scrap the U.S.-brokered security pact with Israel and to accept an eight-point plan offered by Saudi Arabia. They also say the removal of the Marines suggests that U.S. policies in Lebanon have not worked.

Last year's Israeli-Lebanese pact in effect made Lebanon the second Arab government, after Egypt, to sign a comprehensive security agreement with Israel, one that recognises the Jewish state's right to exist in secure borders.

Presidential spokesman Larry

Speakes also took issue with suggestions that the United States was no longer the major power broker in the region. "We do remain a major player," he said, citing ongoing diplomatic contacts.

The Marines, who were sent to Beirut 17 months ago, will all be withdrawn within 30 days, except for a contingent of perhaps 200 who will stay behind to guard the U.S. embassy. There also will be another 300 U.S. military personnel left behind to help train the Lebanese army and perform managerial duties.

The timetable for removing the Marines from Beirut was prepared by Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger and presented to Mr. Reagan for his final approval by his national security adviser, Robert McFarlane.

Under pressure from Congress, Mr. Reagan announced Feb. 7 that he intended to relocate the Marines to the 6th Fleet ships offshore.

Meanwhile, U.S. defence officials have denied published reports that said the battleship USS New Jersey's barracks into Lebanese hill areas east of Beirut last week apparently hit nothing of military value.

Pentagon spokesman Michael Burch said the report was "absolutely untrue," and added that the Defence Department has not provided a detailed account of the damage.



The bodies of four Lebanese Druze residents of the village of Kfar Matto in the Shouf Mountains were found Thursday after the anti-government militia retook the village from the Lebanese army. (AP wirephoto)

Beirut residents struggle to survive

BEIRUT (AP) — The people of west Beirut — many homeless from recent artillery shelling, others from shortage of electricity or water — are making it through the latest round of civil war with survival tactics finely honed by nearly nine years of practice.

Survival in many west Beirut neighbourhoods these days means going without services most city dwellers take for granted — electricity, water and telephones. It means uncollected garbage piling up on street corners and the crashing of glass on sidewalks as families sweep the remains of broken windows from their balconies.

It also means sometimes ducking for cover when a sniper or militiaman decides to let go with an AK-47 automatic rifle or rocket launcher.

"It's okay if I stay close to the wall," said a young boy as he carried a plastic bag full of Arab bread home to his family in Haret Hreik as sniper fire echoed through surrounding streets.

"If it's not okay, I run," he added.

West Beirut came under heavy

artillery bombardment — by Lebanese army units, according to Western military officials — on Feb. 6 and 7 as the Shi'ite Muslim "Amal" militia was wresting control of the Muslim sector of the capital from government troops.

The neighbourhoods of Hamra, Rouche and Manara were hardest hit.

Block-long stretches of stores in the midtown Hamra shopping district are without their plate-glass windows, and at least a quarter of the clothing, jewellery and housewares shops remain closed because their owners have fled or employees can't get to work.

In the seaside Rouche area, shells sheered off rooftop water tanks and damaged elevator towers on modern high-rise apartment buildings that make up the neighbourhood.

Both newly constructed and abandoned buildings in Rouche have been turned into "refugee centres" by the Amal militiamen. One new 10-storey building, just a block from the sea, became home last week to several dozen families

whose houses were destroyed in the southern suburbs earlier this month.

Around the coast in Manara, many old stucco buildings that housed embassy officials, American University of Beirut professors and local journalists have been devastated. Roofs and walls have been blown out, and many have been further damaged by fire.

One parking lot in Manara contains more than three dozen charred cars, their tyres and interiors consumed by fire when shells hit.

Throughout the city militiamen — in uniforms ranging from U.S. Marine fatigues to T-shirts and jeans — have taken over the roadside checkpoints earlier manned by Lebanese army soldiers. But soldiers of the Sixth Brigade, which defected to Amal, are beginning to take up security duties on some main arteries.

Rula, a nurse who lives with her husband in Manara, said that her third floor apartment was habitable but with plastic strips instead of glass as windows.

Sudan says 80 missing after attack on convoy

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has said that 80 people were missing after secessionist rebels attacked a convoy of barges on the upper Nile on Monday.

Transport Minister Khalid Hassan Abbas, giving the first official statement on the incident, said 800 passengers were on six barges and a tug boat towing them when the vessels came under attack.

The minister said the Sudanese Armed Forces killed 30 "outlaws" who were involved in the attack on the Nile convoy.

He said the army was now in control in southern Sudan, inflicting heavy losses on the rebels.

The general did not say where the fighting took place and where the region's oil fields and the Jonglei River irrigation project, from which six foreign workers were abducted on Feb. 10, was now guarded by the army.

Mr. Swar Al Dahab added that all measures had been taken to secure river transportation in the Upper Nile region.

Cypriot president meets U.N. secretary-general

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — President Spyros Kyprianou of Cyprus held talks with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Friday on problems related to the Turkish Cypriots' declaration last Nov. 15 of a separate republic on the divided island.

The secretary-general's spokesman, Francois Giuliani, told reporters that Mr. Kyprianou and Mr. Perez de Cuellar "had a very detailed exchange of views on the present stage of the efforts to find a solution to the Cyprus problem."

Mr. Kyprianou, leaving the building earlier, told reporters: "There's a very important effort going on... basically a U.N. effort." Asked what the next steps

would be, the president replied: "We shall continue to be in touch with the secretary-general. He has the initiative."

He said he would meet in New York Saturday with Edward D. Wines, State Department counselor dealing with the Cyprus problem, and would go back to Cyprus Saturday night.

Mr. Kyprianou was asked there was any progress in the commonwealth contact group on Cyprus. He replied: "The contact group is being kept informed by us on the course of the development and we shall also continue to be in touch with its chairman, Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal."

'Americans prefer complete Marine pullout'

By Barry Sussman
WASHINGTON — A majority of Americans want the U.S. Marines stationed in Beirut to be withdrawn completely from the area around Lebanon rather than just redeployed to ships offshore, according to a Washington Post-ABC News nationwide opinion poll conducted this week.

By ratios of almost 2 to 1, those interviewed also said they feel that the U.S. military presence in Lebanon has served no useful purpose and that there has been too much foot-dragging since Feb. 7, when President Reagan announced that the Marines would be pulled out of their encampment at the Beirut Airport.

Despite Mr. Reagan's contention that "no decision regarding the lives and safety of our servicemen will ever be made by me for a political reason," a majority also said that domestic politics played a larger role than events in Lebanon in forcing Mr. Reagan to withdraw the Marines from Beirut. — Washington Post.

White House confusion prevails on Marine pullout from Beirut

By Michael Gelb
Rearer

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's decision to remove U.S. Marines from Beirut was initially regarded as a major political plus, but White House confusion about details could limit any benefits.

During the past week, U.S. officials have often contradicted each other on how long the pullout will take and on the purpose of increased shelling by U.S. navy ships off the Lebanese coast.

Perhaps more important, the Reagan administration has not clearly explained how the redeployment affects U.S. goals in Lebanon and prospects for regional peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Reagan has repeatedly called Lebanon vital to American security and said two weeks ago that a U.S. pullout would be "the end of Lebanon... and the end of any ability on our part to bring

about an overall peace in the Middle East."

But a few days later, on Feb. 7, he announced plans to move the Marines to the ships and authorized increased naval shelling and air attacks on Muslim gun positions firing on Beirut from Syrian-controlled territory.

The administration later said Mr. Reagan's warning about a pullout referred to a complete withdrawal, not just to a pullback to ships offshore.

White House officials at first said the naval gunfire was intended to bolster Lebanon's embattled President Amin Gemayel. But later they said the firing, which reached a peak last week, was only to protect Americans.

They also said initially the withdrawal could take four or more months, but then they shortened the timetable to 30 days.

Despite Mr. Reagan's emphasis on Lebanon's importance to the entire Middle East and thus to

vital U.S. interests, a senior official at a White House briefing complained that it had become "a national obsession" that was diverting attention from the primary goal of a regional peace agreement.

In an interview published this week, Mr. Reagan insisted he was not "bugging out" and said U.S. influence could still be brought to bear with gunfire from the armada offshore.

But the exact role of the fleet has become a visible source of confusion.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said early last week that the navy was authorized to fire in support of the Gemayel government.

But Congress accused the administration of stepping up U.S. involvement, and Mr. Speakes changed his stand the next day, saying the navy would fire only to protect Americans.

This was the line which Secretary of State George Shultz took in the latest official statement on Lebanon.

He said the United States, while working for a longer-term political solution, was providing material support to the Lebanese "armed forces and proceeding" to respond to those who attack or threaten the safety of our personnel, and to redeploy our Marine detachment onto ships."

Some other officials appeared to see it differently. Navy Secretary John Lehman told reporters this week that the navy had opened fire on Tuesday because of a request from the Lebanese government — an explanation endorsed by a U.S. military spokesman in Beirut.

Mr. Speakes, clearly angered, said Mr. Lehman was incorrect, adding: "The administration policy is

set in the (White House) Oval Office, and I am speaking for that Oval Office."

But Mr. Speakes refused to say how long the U.S. fleet would remain off Lebanon or whether it would still be authorized to fire once the Marines were safely aboard.

Officials also conceded that artillery fire aimed at Beirut endangered Americans living there. "You can't shoot into Beirut and not have a pretty high risk of coming close to an American," a senior official said.

The administration was more obviously confused on the question of how quickly the Marines would quit Beirut.

The initial plan was for about 500 of the 1,600 troops to be aboard ships in 30 days, with the rest to be moved over a period of four months or more as conditions warranted. But after congressional complaints, the timetable changed overnight.

U.S. arms money allowed to be used in Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon announced Friday a one-time exception allowing \$250 million in U.S. arms sales credits to be spent in Israel on development of the new Israeli Lavi fighter plane.

Under normal procedure, such funds may be spent only in the United States.

However, Congress included in

1984 defence budget legislation authority for the exception to be made in the "Lavi research and development money for this year."

The announcement said the Pentagon exemption was granted after consultations between the U.S. administration and members of Congress "to clear up any ambiguity" in the law's intent.

These consultations concluded with the congressmen involved in agreeing that foreign military sales funds were intended by the law to be used for this purpose, but that the statute covered only the \$250 million of... financing available for procurement in Israel as a unique arrangement under the fiscal 1984... resolution," the brief statement said.

Israel expresses 'deep concern' over Lebanon

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne on Friday told a top U.S. official of Israel's "deep concern" over the Lebanese abrogation of the troop withdrawal agreement and over Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's public remarks here, an embassy official said.

Mr. Rosenne told reporters after his meeting with Under Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger that scrapping the Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal agreement was a victory for terrorism that sets a precedent "the world cannot accept."

"The seriousness of the problem is that you suddenly see an agreement abrogated because of terrorist activity of Syria and Iran," he said. "And this is a principle that the world cannot accept."

Lebanese President Amin Gemayel reportedly has agreed to drop the May 17, 1983, agreement as a way of getting foreign

troops out of the country and to have accepted instead an eight-point Saudi Arabian peace plan.

Mr. Rosenne said the Saudi plan is not relevant to the present situation. "There was an agreement," he said referring to the May 17 plan.

"This agreement was ratified by the Lebanese parliament by a majority of 65 to 2 and it has to be implemented. Otherwise any third party could abrogate any agreement signed between two sovereign states."

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TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION MAIN CHANNEL 16:30 Koran 16:45 Cartoons 17:30 Children's Programmes 18:00 Circus 19:30 Programme Review 20:00 Local Programme 20:30 News in Arabic 21:00 Arab Series 21:30 Local Programme on Jordan 22:15 Arab Series 22:30 News Summary FOREIGN CHANNEL 18:00 French Programme 19:00 News in French 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Three's Company 21:00 Best Sellers Empire 22:00 News in English 22:15 Drama — Madame Bouvary Eps. 2 RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 2500 KHz. SW 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsweek 08:00 Morning Show 10:00 News Summary 10:30 News Summary 11:00 Pop Session 12:00 News Summary 12:30 News Summary 13:00 News Summary 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Instruments 14:30 Science Report 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:30 Old Favourites 17:00 Lancers' Choice 18:00 News Summary 18:30 Jazz Hour 19:00 Newsweek 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Evening Show 21:00 News Summary 21:30 News Summary 22:00 Evening Show 22:30 Evening Show 23:00 Evening Show 23:30 Evening Show 24:00 News Headlines BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1413 KHz. 06:00 Financial Review 06:30 The Bach Family 06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Rel-	

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * "Orientalist" original paintings, at the Arts and Gallery. * "French paintings" by Father Bezdikian at the Marriott Hotel at 6:00 p.m. CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267 American Centre 44371 American Centre Library 41520 British Council 36147-8 French Cultural Centre 37009 Goethe Institute 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre 44203 Spanish Cultural Centre 24449 Turkish Cultural Centre 39777 Hays Arts Centre 665159 Hussein Youth City 667181 Y.W.C.A. 41793 Y.W.C.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 843555 CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) 100 to 150 year old intery such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169. SERVICE CLUBS Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, 1:30 p.m. Tel. 815261. MUSEUMS Folklore Museum. Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 15th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Jordan Archaeological Museum. Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qai'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery. Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalists artists. Muntazah, Jabal Lubdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128. PRAYER TIMES (Sunrise) Fajr (Sunset) Dhuhur 'Asr Maghreb 'Isha	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
AMMAN AIRPORT This information is supplied by Alia International Airport at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. 43324, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS 07:05 Cairo (MS) 09:05 Agaba (RJ) 09:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 09:30 Damascus (RJ) 09:30 Jeddah (RJ) 09:45 Doha, Kuwait (RJ) 09:45 Cairo (RJ) 10:40 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 14:30 Tripoli, Laranea (LN) 14:40 Kuwait (RJ) 15:00 Jeddah (SV) 15:30 Cairo (RJ) 17:00 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ) 17:15 New York, Vienna (RJ) 17:35 London, Paris (RJ) 18:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ) 18:40 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) 18:50 Zurich, Beirut, Damascus (RJ) 20:05 Cairo (MS) 20:20 Athens (OA) 20:40 London (BA) 22:00 Damascus (RJ) 23:05 Cairo (MS) 00:05 Cairo (RJ) 00:45 Baghdad (RJ) DEPARTURES 05:45 Cairo (RJ) 07:00 Agaba (RJ) 07:40 Damascus (RJ) 08:05 Cairo (MS) 11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 11:30 Cairo (RJ) 12:15 Riyadh, Doha (SV) 13:30 Cairo (MS) 15:00 Kuwait (SV) 15:40 Jeddah (KU) 15:50 Kuwait (RJ) 19:40 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 19:45 Damascus (RJ) 19:50 Abu Dhabi (RJ) 20:15 Baghdad (RJ) MONEY EXCHANGE Local sell/buy rates in Jds Belgian franc 67.7/ 68.1 Dutch guilder 123.1/ 123.8 Egyptian guinea 322/ 323.3 French franc 45.1/ 45.4 Iraqi dinar 368.3/ 374.3 Italian lire (for 100) 22.4/ 22.6 Japanese yen (for 100) 159.7/ 160.7 Kuwaiti dinar 1273.7/ 1280 Lebanese lira 61.2/ 62 Omani rial 1073.3/ 1080 Qatari riyal 102/ 102.7 Saudi riyal 106.4/ 106.7 Swedish crown 46.7/ 47 Swiss franc 169.9/ 170.9 Syrian lire 54.8/ 55.7 UAE dirham 101.5/ 102.2 U.K. sterling pound 540.3/ 543.5 U.S. dollar 372.5/ 374.5 W. German mark 138.9/ 139.7 WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be fair, with medium and high clouds. Winds will be southeasterly fresh, but it will be dusty sometimes. In Agaba, northerly moderate winds will be changing to dusty sometimes and sea calm. Low/high temperature in deg. C. Amman 30/17 Agaba 9/26 Deserts 32/12 Jordan Valley 10/25 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Agaba 25. Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Agaba 25 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
EMERGENCIES Ambulance 193, 75111 Fire brigade 192 Blood bank 75121 Civil defence rescue 66111 Fire headquarters 2200-3 Police rescue 192, 2111, 3777 Police headquarters 39141 Electric Power Co. 36381-2 Municipal water service 71125-8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813-32 Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4 Akleh Maternity, J. Amman 42441 Jabal Amman Maternity 42362 Mathias, J. Amman 36140 Palestine, St. Joseph 66471-4 St. Joseph's Hospital 669131 University Hospital 84584 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667578 Al-Muhsin Hospital 667227-9 The Islamic, Abadi 665292 Al-Ani, Abadi 66464 Al-Muhsin, J. Amman 77101-3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111 Army, Maghreb 91611 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Amin Abdul Jabbar 674222 MARKET PRICES Underlower price in Jds per kg. Apple (Double Red) 450/ 400 Apple (Golden) 450/ 400 Apple (Starline) 450/ 400 Apple (Sundance) 450/ 400 Apple (local) 220/ 180 Banana 280/ 240 Banana (Mukannam) 240/ 210 Beans 300/ 260 Cabbage 70/ 40 Carrot 150/ 120 Cauliflower (white) 70/ 40 Cucumber (large) 220/ 180 Cucumber (small) 320/ 280 Dates 180/ 150 Eggplant (large) 100/ 70 Eggplant (small) 140/ 110 Fig 400/ 310 Garlic 340/ 240 Grapes (white) 700/ 600 Grapes (black) 700/ 600 Grapefruit 90/ 60 Guava 400/ 300 Lemon 130/ 100 Lemon (large) 100/ 70 Marrow (large) 150/ 120 Marrow (small) 140/ 110 Mallow 140/ 110 Onion (dry) 350/ 250 Onion (wet) 150/ 100 Orange (Abu Samra) 260/ 220 Oranges (Shamouni) 210/ 140 Pear 500/ 400 Pepper (sweet) 400/ 300 Pepper (hot green) 200/ 170 Potatoes 400/ 310	

'Obeidat inspects youth ministry, examines plans

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Saturday made a visit to the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Antiquities and examined its programmes and activities.

After the visit, Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah Oweidat said that the prime minister was briefed by senior ministry officials in detail on the ministry's plans that are to be implemented in 1984 and its policy of co-ordination with other government departments.

The prime minister stressed the need to extend the scope of such co-ordination between government departments in programmes relating to young people and promised to pay another visit to the ministry in a month's time to review progress in such plans, the minister said.

The visit was part of a programme of such visits in which the prime minister intends to conduct close hand studies of a number of ministries, their work and activities.

King to condole Al Ghouri family

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday delegated Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh to attend the funeral of Emile Al Ghouri and to convey the King's condolences to Al Ghouri family.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, delegated his office director Raja' Al Dajani to take part in the funeral of Mr. Ghouri and to extend the Prince's condolences to Al Ghouri family.

Mr. Ghouri, a former minister and a deputy in the Lower House of Parliament for the Jerusalem constituency passed away Friday at the age of 78.

Alia to get Kuwaiti loan to help pay for Tri-Stars

AMMAN (J.T.) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, is expected to sign an agreement with the National Bank of Kuwait next week to obtain a loan of 18 million Kuwaiti dinars.

Alia's Vice-President Finance Fahed Al Fanek was quoted by Alia News, the weekly newsletter of Alia, as saying that the loan will

help finance the purchase of four new TriStar planes which Alia has recently ordered.

The loan will cost Alia 0.5 per cent above the Kuwaiti interbank rate, currently around 7.5 per cent per annum, and will be repaid in nine semi-annual instalments, starting after a grace period of four years, according to Mr. Fanek.

U.N. team meets Tash over Israeli settlements

AMMAN (Petra) — A United Nations team probing into the adverse effects of Israeli settlements on the Arab population under Israeli rule discussed their mission here Saturday with the secretary-general of the foreign ministry Mr. Walid Tash.

Mr. Tash spoke of the serious consequences of the Israeli settlements on the Arab population and the land and its people and pointed to Israeli designs to resettle Palestinian refugees.

The Israeli plan to re-settle the refugees in new regions near the Jordan Valley with the purpose of emptying Palestine of its legitimate population, Mr. Tash said. He also underlined the relationship between these Israeli plans and the Knesset's (Israeli

parliament) decision last month to impose Israeli laws and legislation on the Jewish settlements set up on the occupied Arab territory which implies that Israel considers the land and the settlements as part of Israel.

Mr. Tash called on the U.N. to regard these settlements as a violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention which prohibits any change in the character of occupied territory and the status of its inhabitants.

The team is expected to report to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the conditions of Arab people under Israeli occupation and settlements set up on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.



POLICE VISIT: Director-general of police in Iraq Maj. Gen. Abdul Khaleq Abdul Aziz (centre) just after his arrival Saturday here talks to

Public Security Director Lt.-Gen. Mohammad Idris (Petra photo)

Nijm denies reports about establishing ministry backed contracting company

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Works Minister Rayef Nijm Saturday denied reports in the local press that his ministry plans to set up a contracting company jointly with a number of major local contractors.

Nevertheless, the ministry practices a policy of co-operation and co-ordination with the Jordanian Engineers Association and the Jordanian Contractors Association in order to try to improve the condition and performance of local companies, especially those that deal with the consultancy and construction business, Mr. Nijm said.

He said his ministry tries to stress the importance of quality and not quantity in the number of such companies in existence with a view to raising the standard of the profession.

The minister said that the Ministry of Public Works has decided to support the Jordanian Company for Renting and Maintaining

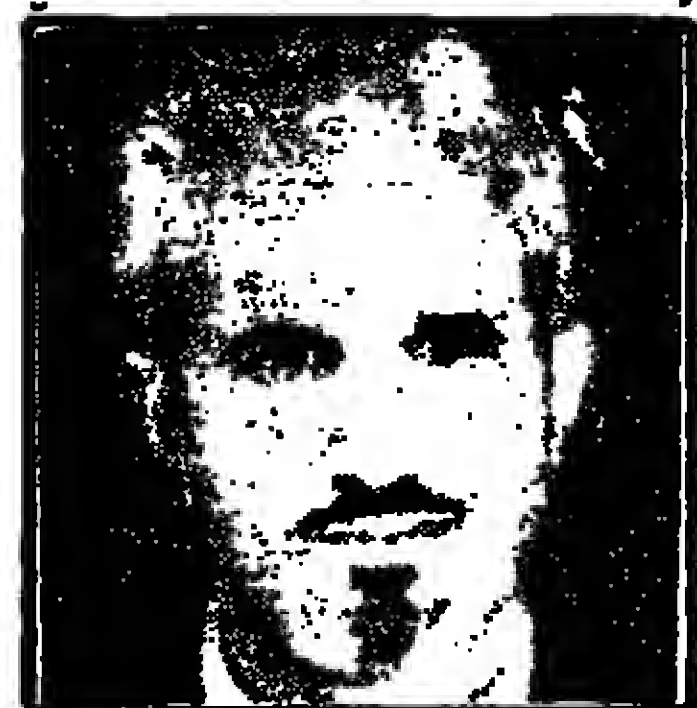
Equipment and Machinery which was established in 1983, and has reached agreement with that company whereby the ministry will hire the company's equipment for use in implementing public works projects in southern Jordan.

Machinery and equipment are of vital use to contracting companies and should not be left idle, otherwise the national economy will suffer, the minister said.

In answer to a question from the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, on rumours about the establishment of an independent government sponsored corporation that would invite consultancy firms to conduct feasibility studies, draw up designs for projects, announce tenders and supervise the implementation of schemes, the minister said that the creation of such corporation would be in conflict with the role of his ministry.

Plans for establishing such a corporation do not exist and foreign consultancy firms are already present in the country and co-operate with local firms directly without going through the ministry, Mr. Nijm said.

The Ministry of Public Works adopts a policy which offers facilities to all contractors and consultants and does not restrict its dealings to certain firms, the minister said.



Rayef Nijm

Election candidates rise to 92

AMMAN (J.T.) — The number of candidates contesting the eight vacant seats in the Lower House of the Parliament reached 92 Saturday.

The increase came as four more people announced their candidature for the vacant seat representing the northern governorate of Irbid, thus increasing the candidates for the governorate seat to 19.

There were no more nominations reported in the other constituencies, but nominations will remain open until Monday afternoon.

The vacancy for the eight seats were caused by the death of their occupants since the last national elections were held in April 1967.

The restored Lower House of Parliament amended the constitution in January to permit elections to be held on the East Bank alone thus enabling by-elections to go ahead.

Last month the members of the Lower House of Parliament chose eight deputies from the West Bank to fill the vacant seats there.

'Obeidat receives award

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (JSRA) Saturday presented Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat with the society's shield in recognition of his efforts for supporting the cause of the society and in helping to implement its policy resolutions.

The presentation was made during a meeting between the JSRA president and its board members, and Mr. 'Obeidat at the latter's

office.

The prime minister voiced his appreciation of JSRA's efforts for reducing road accidents and serving the local community.

JSRA held a seminar on public awareness in traffic related affairs in Irbid recently under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and issued recommendations and resolutions designed to minimise road accidents in the country.

EC team, Regent discuss optimal use of finance

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After a recent decision made by the European Community (EC) to provide Jordan with 63 million European Currency Units (ECU's) — one ECU being equivalent to JD 0.303 — in financial and technical assistance, a visiting EC delegation held talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and with president of the National Planning Council (NPC), Dr. Omar Dakhkan.

During the meetings, both parties discussed Jordan's future requirements and essential needs in the field of industrial development, manpower and trade, as well as studying mechanisms for the best use of the loans granted by the EC.

Representative of the EC commission in Jordan, Mr. Thomas O'Sullivan, told the Jordan Times in an interview that during the EC delegation's discussions with Jordanian officials, both parties encouraged greater participation from the private sector in projects in the Kingdom and reviewed Jordan's agricultural imports and exports and ways of achieving greater efficiency in the sector.

Mr. O'Sullivan said the problems Jordan is facing in the field of energy which are burdening its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) were discussed as "high priority," and plans have been set to minimise these problems with the help of long-term loans to be granted by EC mainly through the European Investment Bank (EIB).

1983 assistance
Last year, the EC granted Jordan

health and technical assistance. Under the first agreement, 18 million ECU's were available as grants while under the second agreement 19 million ECU's will be grants.

Last July, Prince Hassan met EC officials and held talks covering the political situation in the Middle East; the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in helping Palestinian refugees; EC food aid, and EC support for agricultural development programmes.

Parliamentary visit

President of the European Parliament, Mr. Pieter Dankert, is scheduled to lead a parliamentary delegation to the Middle East at the end of this month. The scheduled tour will include Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Israel to discuss the latest developments in the Middle East situation focusing on the Lebanese crisis in order to study the appropriate actions to be taken by the community with regards to this issue.

The parliamentary resolution to send the mission to the region was taken Dec. 15, in the session following King Hussein's speech to the European Parliament. Mr. O'Sullivan quoted a newsletter publication as saying.

A team of experts from the EIB visited Jordan last month and discussed with the Cities and Villages Development Bank new loans under the co-operation agreement. The funds were advanced to municipalities in the country to assist with development projects.

Assembly extends UNRWA's mandate

By Affah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations General Assembly decided last December to extend the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) in its main five fields until June 1987, the director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan, Per Olof Hallqvist assured the Jordan Times Saturday.

The extension of the mandate, which was established in 1949, is a normal procedure and has been carried out since 1950, Mr. Hallqvist said.

He added that the extension of the mandate on the last two occasions was for three years "while in the past years there was no definite duration of time attached to the extension of UNRWA's mandate."

"Sometimes it was extended

every year and at other times it was extended every two or three years," he said.

Asked if the U.N. General Assembly decision was based on UNRWA's financial position, Mr. Hallqvist said that it was not at all based on the agency's budget for UNRWA which will continue to its services.

Mr. Hallqvist stressed that if the agency "one day runs out of money, it will probably stop providing its services from that moment forth even though the duration of the mandate may not yet be over."

He added that in such a case, UNRWA can only present its financial situation to the General Assembly and in turn it can only ask member states to increase their financial contributions.

UNRWA's Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck, speaking at a press conference in Amman on January 26, said that, despite UNRWA's deficit of about \$60 million for the year 1984, the agency will continue providing its services to the Palestinian refugees.

"It has always managed to do so throughout the few previous years which were characterised by a deficit in the budget," he reminded those present.

According to the Saturday edition of Al Rai' daily newspaper, the General Assembly also adopted other resolutions including a plea for the countries concerned to continue their financial assistance to UNRWA, as well as to continue their assistance to people who emigrated from the occupied Arab territories as a result of the June war of 1967.

Social security body investment tops JD 63m

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) has so far invested JD 63 million in Jordanian development projects.

An SSC spokesman was quoted by Al Rai' Arabic daily newspaper as saying that investment was made in economic projects that are backed by government guarantees and housing projects. Until the end of last year, the

SSC had allocated 532 monthly salaries to beneficiaries who had retired from work due to old age or were permanently disabled, he said.

The spokesman said that a total of JD 500,000 had altogether been paid to the beneficiaries since the beginning of the application of the SSC laws.

U.S. feminist academic to lecture at universities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Anne K. Mellor, Jessie Howard Watkins University Professor of Feminist Studies, and professor of English at Stanford University, currently on sabbatical in London, will visit Jordan February 19-24.

Dr. Mellor is scheduled to speak to students in the Faculties of English at the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University. She also hopes to meet administrators and faculty members at both institutions who share her interest in interdisciplinary studies.

Her formal programme will conclude with a lecture at the American Centre on the topic: "What Should Women Learn?", which is scheduled to be held at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 23.

Dr. Mellor received a B.A. from Brown University, followed by a

Ph.D. from Columbia University in English and comparative literature. She has been employed at Stanford University since 1966.

Dr. Mellor has been a visiting professor at the University of California at Los Angeles and has received a number of awards, including a Fulbright grant and a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

She has published two books: Blake's Human Form Divine, (U. of California Press, 1974); English Romantic Irony, (Harvard University Press, 1980); and numerous articles.

Dr. Mellor created and administers the women studies programme at Stanford University, a leading American university near San Francisco, California.

Commemorative coins mark successful release of Arabian oryxes into the wild

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), recently issued gold and silver coins to mark the release of 29 Arabian oryxes into the wild, crowning more than two decades of dedicated work by conservation organisations. The Arabian oryxes were released last Oct. 18 from the Shaumari Wildlife Reserve to run wild again in the Jordanian desert after 60 years absence.

The coins, issued by the RSCN, carry the emblem of the society on one side and a picture of an Arabian oryx on the other. The coins are being sold to the public upon request from the RSCN office, the director of the society said.

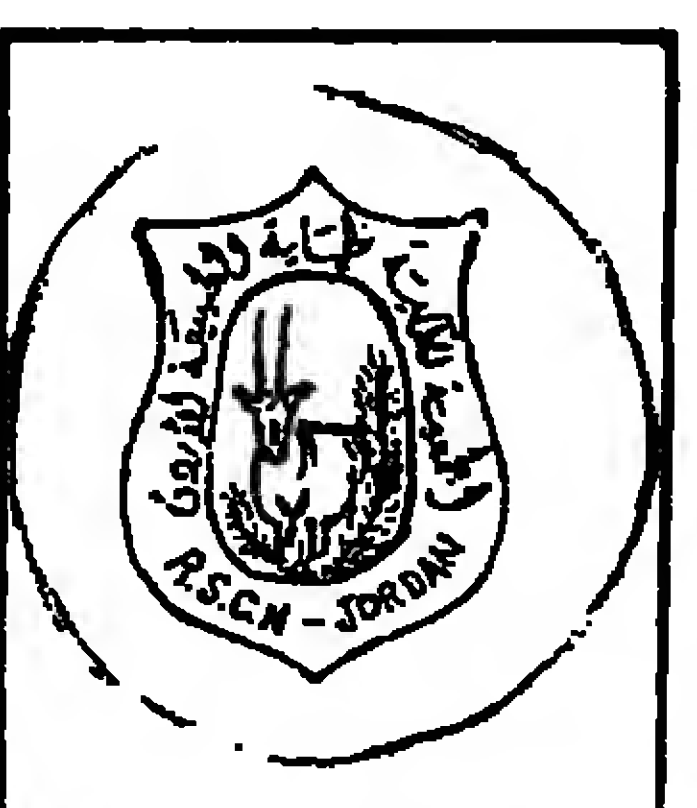
In an interview with the Jordan Times, Maher Abu Ja'far explained the various activities of the society and its duty to preserve and protect the Jordanian environment since its establishment in 1966.

Mr. Abu Ja'far said the society protects wildlife as well as trees and other plants in the Kingdom in co-operation with local authorities and international conservation organisations. The society, he said, works to protect endangered animals and plants and to set up national gardens. The society also organises hunting seasons and raises the awareness of people so as to encourage them to protect their environment.

Mr. Abu Ja'far said a female oryx recently gave birth to a baby which was called "Amra", the first to be born after the release of the oryxes last October.



The front and reverse sides of the newly minted coin commemorating the release of the oryxes back into the wild (J.T. file photo)

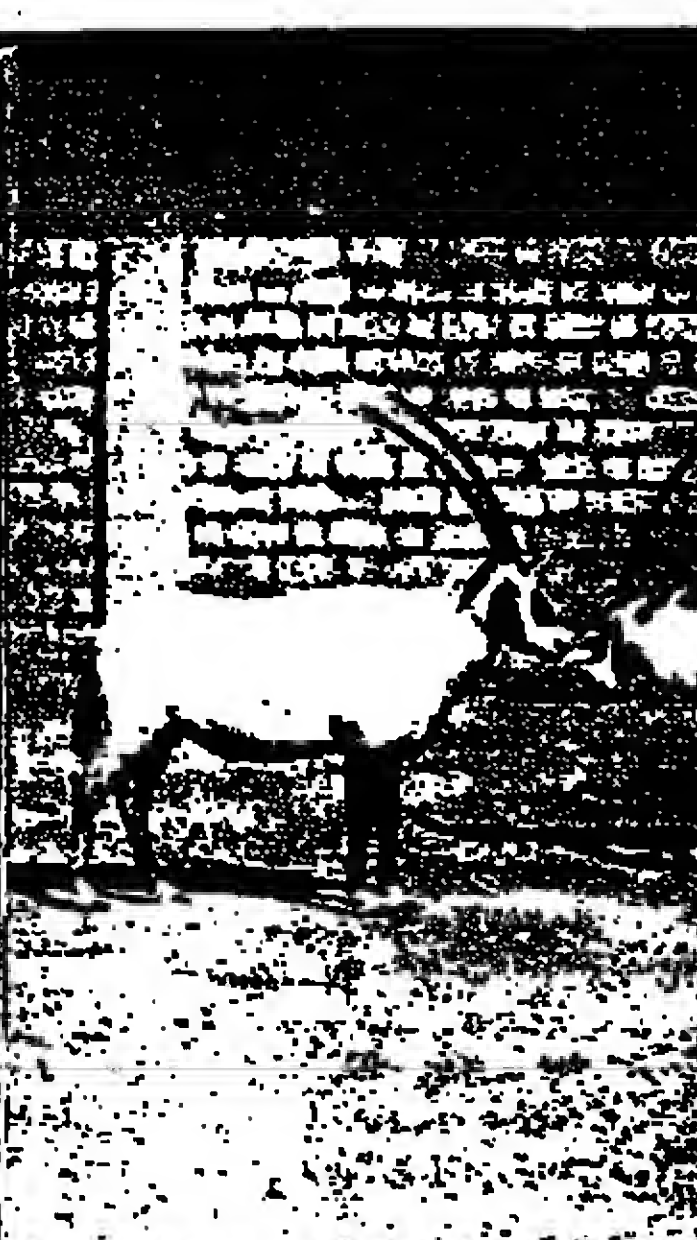


the damage the animals are causing due to the large increase in their numbers in the area, he added.

The RSCN is now taking good care of the oryx herd entrusted to it at the Shaumari Reserve which was set up in 1975 with the specific intent of restocking the desert with oryx and other rare and endangered Arabian animals and plants. Before oryx could run wild in Shaumari, however, it was necessary to fence off the whole area of several thousands of dunums, which is about 120 kilometres to the east to Amman, to guard the vegetation against incursions from local livestock.

The society, Mr. Abu Ja'far pointed out, has a warden and six permanent members of staff on the reserve to keep an eye on the animals. The staff rely on radio communications to help them supervise the very large area.

Any Jordanian over 18 years old and with a love of nature can become a member of the royal society provided he or she is recommended by two existing members.



The Arabian oryxes that were released back into the wild towards the end of last year (J.T. file photo)

land Reserve, will add another link in a chain of protected areas stretching as far as the Dead Sea.

In its membership, the society includes 260 people, with Anis Vowasher as its president, Minister of Information Laila Sharaf as vice-president, Kamel Abu Jabbar as secretary-general, Hisham Thabian as treasurer, while members of the board of directors include president of Yarmouk University, Dr. Adnan Badran, and dean of the faculty of science at the University of Jordan, Dr. Subhi Qasem.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammad meets 'Obeidat

AMMAN (Petra) — His Highness Prince Mohammad Saturday paid a visit to the Prime Ministry and met Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat. Prince Mohammad also visited parliament where he met the Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akef Al Fayed respectively.

Traders fined for violating supply rules

AMMAN (Petra) — The martial law court here has fined 35 traders for violating the Ministry of Supply regulations. The fines imposed ranged from JD 30 to JD 200. The military governor has endorsed the sentences.

Social development with Saudis discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Abdul Salam Kana'an received at his office Saturday Saudi Ambassador in Amman Sheikh Ibrahim Al Sultan and reviewed with him relations between the two countries in the field of social development. Mr. Kana'an also renewed an invitation to his Saudi counterpart to visit Jordan to get acquainted with the activities of the ministry and also to discuss ways of exchanging specialists in social work between the two countries.

Personnel training course starts

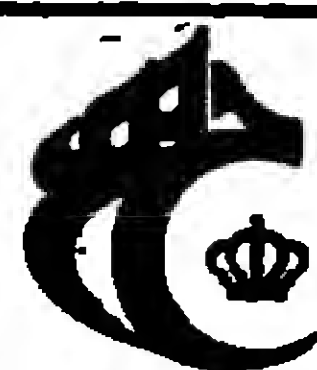
AMMAN (Petra) — A training course on personnel management started Saturday at the Institute of Public Administration. The three-week course is aimed at developing the skills of participants occupying the posts of personnel managers at ministries and government departments, as well as at raising the standard of personnel sections at these departments.

Railroad to buy 60 new wagons

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Aqaba Railway Corporation will import 60 large wagons during the first half of the current year to transport phosphate, according to the corporation's director, Sahel Hamza. He pointed out that such lorries are capable of carrying a load of 47 tonnes each and will help boost the volume of Jordanian phosphates produced and exported via the port of Aqaba to 5 million tonnes in 1984.

Aqaba book exhibition ends

AOABA (Petra) — The national book exhibition, held by the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA) in co-operation with Aqaba municipality, ended in Aqaba Saturday. The week-long exhibition included a display of children's books and television documentaries. DLDNA director-general, Dr. Ahmad Sharkas, expressed a hope that further efforts will be made to develop the Aqaba municipality library and to increase the number of books to meet the needs of people there.



REMINDER

Under the patronage of Her Majesty
Queen Noor

the opening of the new wing of
the Jordan National Gallery
will be on Wednesday February 29 at 4:30 instead of
Sunday February 19, 1984.

Jordan Times

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Telegram: JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan.
 The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Jordan's large industrial projects

By Fahed Fanek

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (manufacturing and mining) is responsible for 18 per cent of the Jordanian gross domestic product (GDP). This substantial contribution was expected to be even higher in view of the huge capital invested in this sector, and amounting to almost two-fifths of all investments envisaged by the two economic and social development plans, reflecting the extremely high priority given to industry during the last 10 years.

Industrial sector underwent a structural change during recent years. Previously it comprised various light industries, such as food processing, clothing manufacturing and production of building material. These light industries were predominantly owned and managed by entrepreneurs from the private sector, and engaged in production mainly for the local market, to satisfy domestic consumption, and enjoyed a formidable protection through high customs duties imposed on competing foreign imports.

In contrast, the industrial sector is now led by several large industrial units, such as potash mining from the Dead Sea, fertilisers plant using local high grade phosphate, cement processing, and phosphate rock extracting. These industries are producing for export, and could not be protected by the government, and accordingly have to depend on effective management drive to reduce cost and enhance the ability to compete in the international market. Top managers of large projects are civil servants appointed by the government.

The overall industrial capacity grew rapidly, but is still acutely underutilised. It is expected that the new large projects will be able to fully use their potential capacity during this year and the coming year. Phosphate rock production will continue to be the principal mining activity in Jordan. Its output reached 4.4 million tonnes in 1982, and is expected to have topped the five-million-tonne mark in 1983. Jordan Phosphate Mining Company is planning to double the present capacity in the next couple of years. Phosphate rock accounts for one fifth of the national commodity exports, thus making Jordan the fourth largest phosphate producer in the world after Morocco, the United States of America, and the Soviet Union; and the second largest phosphate rock exporter in the world after Morocco.

The potash plant cost \$475 million, and has the capacity to produce 1.2 million tonnes. It produced six thousand tonnes in 1982, and 400 thousand tonnes in 1983, and is expected to double this figure in 1984 and work to full capacity in 1985. The phosphate fertiliser plant in Aqaba is able to produce up to 740,000 tonnes of diammonium phosphate and 104,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid a year. As a start the plant utilised 15 per cent of its capacity in 1982, and expanded further in 1983. The project cost some \$400 million, of which the government underwrote 51 per cent. Arab institutions contributed 30 per cent and the balance was subscribed by private shareholders.

Among other noteworthy industrial projects, we point out Jordan Petroleum Refinery, Jordan Cement Factories in Fuhais and the South, and many other units. The implementation of the large industrial projects took more time than planned, and consumed more capital than was originally anticipated in their feasibility studies. When they were ready and operational, the markets were depressed due to the international economic recession, which drastically reduced demand and lowered prices of primary goods.

After the confusion

A LOT of confusion has arisen over the Saudi eight-point plan for Lebanon, starting from who issued it to who accepts or rejects it to what its outcome is likely to be.

Saudi Arabia yesterday disclaimed any connection with the much publicised eight proposals for foreign troop withdrawals from and peace in Lebanon; nevertheless, the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, was in Damascus yesterday to shore up support for it and seems to have succeeded in getting Syrian President Assad's approval of its general outline. Lebanese President Amin Gemayel was initially optimistic that the new plan could present the right opportunity for a Syrian-Lebanese deal, and he had also counted on the Americans and the Israelis to show enough understanding for what he had to do and even to support his effort. In Washington, the feeling had been that the Lebanese-Israeli withdrawal pact of May 17 had indeed to be scrapped if there was to be any real chance of moving forward on Lebanon; the feeling might have not been shared by all officials of the administration, but those who felt that there was no alternative to the May 17 accord could always take a holiday to the Bahamas or subdue their displeasure with what the president felt. Israel, for its part, had been "preparing" for the abrogation of the agreement with Beirut, although Israeli officials never stopped complaining about the "confusion" in the U.S. about the whole issue of Lebanon.

As it turned out, the so-called Saudi eight-point plan actually was "ideas" advanced by President Gemayel and not official Saudi Arabian proposals, according to both the Syrian and the Saudi foreign ministers. And the eight points in the plan, among which there is the proposal for the abrogation of the May 17 accord, had to be accepted or rejected as a "package" deal, in the view of the Lebanese government. But if this clears some of the confusion over the plan itself, it does not explain why the Syrians should reject it or why the Lebanese should cling to it.

The question for Damascus has been more or less academic. The Syrians, aware that the balance of power is now tipped in their favour, will not accept to be on an equal footing with the Israelis regarding the presence of their troops in Lebanon. Damascus refuses to consider withdrawing its forces simultaneously with the Israelis, a step envisaged in the eight-point plan, and for it there is one proposal only, "to abrogate the May 17 agreement by deeds... in reality", as Foreign Minister Khaddam told reporters in the Syrian capital yesterday. President Gemayel may want to buy a ceasefire, an insurance for his staying in power, the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from his country and a national reconciliation in return for dropping the accord with Israel, but Syria is adamant that its condition be met first and foremost. It does not take another explanation.

In any case, whether the latest proposals are taken or rejected, changed or modified, the diplomatic drive that has been engineered by Saudi Arabia during the past few days opens an important window of opportunity to save Lebanon. The initiative must not be lost to differences over details or crack under customary illusions and destructive suspicions.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Credibility remains lost

THE AMERICAN media said nothing new when they pronounced that President Reagan's policy in the Middle East had collapsed and that American diplomacy in the region had failed. Signs of collapse and failure appeared much earlier, even though the American media could not see it except through the Lebanese president's decision to cancel the May 17 agreement. The American president's policy in the Middle East had failed ever since it lost its credibility in relation to the Palestinian and Lebanese causes. When President Reagan announced his proposal of Sept. 1, 1982, he committed himself to achieving a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and limiting Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

Instead of working to achieve these commitments, the United States greatly increased its support for Israel and felt no embarrassment at withdrawing from UNESCO to please Israel. Consequently, America's credibility in the region fell. Yet the American administration continues to entrench this situation by acting in concert with Israel and by employing a policy towards the Palestinian case and the Lebanese problem purely for American electoral purposes.

Al Dustour: A real starting point

WITH THE Lebanese president officially approving the special plan to solve the Lebanese crisis, the May 17 agreement will be put away for good and will die as a point of dispute. The Lebanese government's approval of this plan is considered a starting point for a real political settlement in Lebanon and co-incides with American President Ronald Reagan's official announcement of his approval to withdraw the Marines to ships off the Lebanese shore. This reinforces the chances of national reconciliation through closer links with the country's opposition in order to bring about the restructuring of Lebanon's future policies.

In light of this, it is no longer possible to understand the many reservations hampering a political settlement especially now the American and Israeli positions have been weakened. There is no need for reservation or for more Lebanese bloodshed in order to gain the demands that we can now reach through political discussion. The Lebanese president's approval of the plan is actually a valuable opportunity that should be grabbed by all influential people to achieve a real national reconciliation that will return Lebanon's peace, security, unity, independence, its Arab identity and its national belief regarding that Israel, American and the Falangists have tried to cancel over the last nine years.

Sawt Al Sha'ab: War is inevitable

JUST AS the Lebanese people realised that there is no escape from carrying arms anew to stop subjugation by Israel, and just as the Iraqi people realised that no mediation of any Arab, Islamic or international committee could convince the Iranian aggressors to stop the war, the Arab Nation has to wake up and realise that only disaster awaits as an alternative to a clash with Zionism and its allies. Despite Iraq's position in the Arab region, and despite the mediations and pleas to end the war, some Arabs have not yet realised that they owe it to the Iraqi people to change their attitude and cease any form of relations with Iran until the war ends.

While American battleships are practising jungle law to force the Lebanese people to accept Washington's and Tel Aviv's plans for them, Arab sympathy does not go beyond words and in extreme cases pure condemnation of the foreign presence on Lebanese territory. Israel's policy will drag the region into new wars whether we like it or not.



Arab News

Gemayel fights for political survival

BEIRUT (R) — President Amin Gemayel, who took office in war-torn Lebanon in September 1982, is today fighting for political survival with hardly a capital to call his own.

After taking over from his assassinated President-elect brother Bashir, the president was soon to learn that the sectarian problems which had haunted Lebanon for decades were getting increasingly difficult to tackle.

The son of the most powerful family in Lebanon's Maronite Christian community, Mr. Gemayel found himself fighting a determined coalition of underprivileged Muslim communities that have long demanded a better political deal.

Bashir's death did not immediately destroy hopes of reconciliation among Lebanon's warring factions that followed the withdrawal of Palestinian and Israeli Forces from Beirut.

But the 42-year-old Amin's inability to project an image of a national leader rather than a representative of a minority quickly dashed hopes of reconciliation and barely 17 months after assuming office, left him beleaguered in a tiny portion of his capital, Beirut.

Mr. Gemayel was accused of being a protégé of the United States and his opponents made clear that he had no hope of achieving

national reconciliation.

Their demand for his resignation was underscored with humiliating defeats suffered by his army at the hands of Syrian-backed leftist and Muslim militia this month.

Even his reported agreement to scrap a troop withdrawal deal he signed with Israel last year does not seem to be enough for the array of his opponents who appear to sense an opportunity to end the dominant position of the Christians, now a minority in a largely-Muslim country.

A lawyer and businessman said to be one of the richest men in Lebanon, the president had a reputation as a moderate and conciliator which contrasted with the uncompromising and ruthless image of Bashir.

But he has so far failed to achieve the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon and has never extended his authority beyond Christian East Beirut, his main power base.

Hopes for a better future after the Israeli invasion of June 1982 were dashed when the reconstituted Lebanese army, seen by many as a symbol of new unity in the making, split along sectarian lines early this month, allowing Muslim militia to wrestle West Beirut from government control.

Mr. Gemayel's increasingly

shaky position, the resignation of his government and lack of prospects for conciliation prompted the start of the withdrawal this month by a Multinational Force assigned to Beirut to help his regime.

The Gemayel family's reputation for fierce resistance to Muslim demands for redrawing Lebanon's political map made the president's task of uniting a nation torn since a 1975-76 civil war virtually impossible.

His father Pierre founded and still heads the Falangist Party and Bashir was commander of the Christian militia which brutally fought Muslim opponents along with the Israelis.

The early days of relative trust Amin enjoyed after assuming the presidency reflected the fact that, unlike his brother, he did not take a leading role in the military activities of the Falangist militia during communal violence.

During the Israeli siege of West Beirut in 1982, when his brother's militia was co-operating with the Israelis, Amin crossed the front line for meetings with Palestinian leaders.

He took over a country devastated by years of civil war and the months of fierce fighting between Israeli troops and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

He tackled his first major problem by signing the pact with Israel despite vehement rejection by Syria and a broad spectrum of Lebanese and other political figures in the Middle East.

The first gathering for many years of Lebanon's rival leaders under Mr. Gemayel failed to achieve reconciliation in Geneva last autumn due to the controversial agreement.

Lebanon's deep-rooted factional feuds were underlined when, even as he was sworn in, rescue workers were still clearing rotting bodies from two Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut where Israeli-backed Falangist militiamen had massacred hundreds of civilians.

Mr. Gemayel was born on Jan. 22, 1942, in the family village of Bikfaya in the mountains north-east of Beirut.

He studied law at Beirut's Jesuit University but then devoted much of his energy to building up a business empire with a special interest in high technology.

He was injured during the 1975 civil war and, like his father, has been the target of unsuccessful assassins.

A smart dresser with well-groomed hair, Mr. Gemayel married Joyce Tyan in 1967 and they have three children, Nicole, Pierre and Sami.

Mubarak's U.S. visit highlights differences

By Robert H. Reid
Associated Press

CAIRO — President Hosni Mubarak's talks in Washington last week underscored basic differences over Middle East policy which some Western diplomats fear will strain relations between the United States and one of its closest Arab allies.

The differences centre on Egypt's belief that the Palestinian issue and not Syria's role in Lebanon remains the most pressing problem in the Middle East. Egyptian officials fear Washington is too pre-occupied over events in Lebanon and should be dealing directly with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for an overall Arab-Israeli settlement.

Egypt's position regarding the Palestinians and the role of the PLO represents a subtle but clear shift from the policy of the late President Anwar Sadat, who considered the PLO "a representative" — but not the only representative — of the Palestinian people.

In Washington, Mr. Mubarak described the PLO as the "chosen representative" of the Palestinian people and appealed to the United States to open a dialogue with the organisation.

Upon his return Wednesday to Cairo, Mr. Mubarak told reporters he sensed "no change yet" in American opposition to a dialogue with the PLO during his Washington talks.

Egyptian newspapers also quoted Mr. Mubarak as saying "no nation can speak for the Palestinians" — a clear sign that Cairo supports a role for the PLO in any future peace talks.

The United States and Israel reject any PLO role until the organisation recognises Israel's right to exist. President Ronald Reagan has proposed instead a self-governing Palestinian entity on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza in association with Jordan, but has provided no role for the PLO.

Despite Mr. Mubarak's continued pledges of support for the Camp David agreements, his remarks in Washington went far beyond the formula for negotiations laid down in the 1978 U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian concord.

Camp David, which also laid the foundations for Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, provided for Egypt and Israel to open negotiations on the future of the Palestinians. The agreement called for Jordan and Palestinian representatives — but not specifically



the PLO — to join those talks at a later date.

Following his talks in Washington, Mr. Mubarak publicly blamed Israel rather than Syria for the turmoil in Lebanon. Mr. Mubarak's chief political adviser, Osama Al Baz, told Egyptian newspapers that any Middle East settlement must include the "legitimate security interests" of Syria.

Egyptian reporters travelling with Mr. Mubarak described the Washington talks as inconclusive and largely a review of both countries' positions on the Middle East. The reporters, who represent government-owned newspapers and were undoubtedly briefed by Egyptian officials, indicated Mr. Mubarak was disappointed that the Reagan administration remains adamant in its refusal to deal directly with the PLO.

Moussa Sabry, editor of the government-owned daily Al-Akhar, criticised the "stagnant U.S. position" on the Middle East and described U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz as "the weakest secretary of state when it comes to dealing with the Middle East problem."

The weekly magazine Al-Musawwar said Mr. Mubarak's meetings in Washington were designed to confront the United States "with its miscalculations in the Middle East crisis and to help it explore new attitudes which would extricate the American position from its current dilemma" and revive the peace process.

In recent months, the Egyptian government has been pinning its hopes for a wider role in Arab politics on the revival of peace efforts involving Egypt, Jordan and Mr. Arafat's wing of the PLO.

But privately, Egyptian diplomats have said such efforts stand little chance of success unless the United States can pressure Israel into joining the peace process with the PLO, which the Israelis have refused to do.

WEA activation planned

By Wolf J. Bell

BONN — French plans to reactivate the Western European Union (WEU) as the European arm of NATO are welcomed in principle by the Bonn government, Chancellor Helmut Kohl told President Mitterrand of France at an informal Franco-German summit in Edenkoben, Rhineland-Palatinate.

The two men also discussed European and East-West affairs. They jointly plan to help solve the difficulties that beset the European Community, agreeing that greater attention must be paid to security policy in co-operation between the Common Market countries.

Bonn would prefer to discuss these ideas with the other EEC countries first to avoid creating the impression that France and Germany are going it alone. Irritation on this score could only hamper plans, Bonn feels.

Problems also arise from the fact that only seven of the 10 EEC countries joined the WEU in 1954. Greece, Denmark and Ireland (which is not in NATO either) must first be persuaded to join, as must would-be EEC members Spain and Portugal. The WEU is still relevant by virtue of its members' undertaking to

come automatically "to each other's support in the event of attack. One of the reasons why it was set up, at the same time as the Federal Republic of Germany joined NATO, was to counteract widespread misgivings about German re-armament in Western Europe. Bonn accepted strict bans on arms manufacture and regular checks of its ordnance industry.

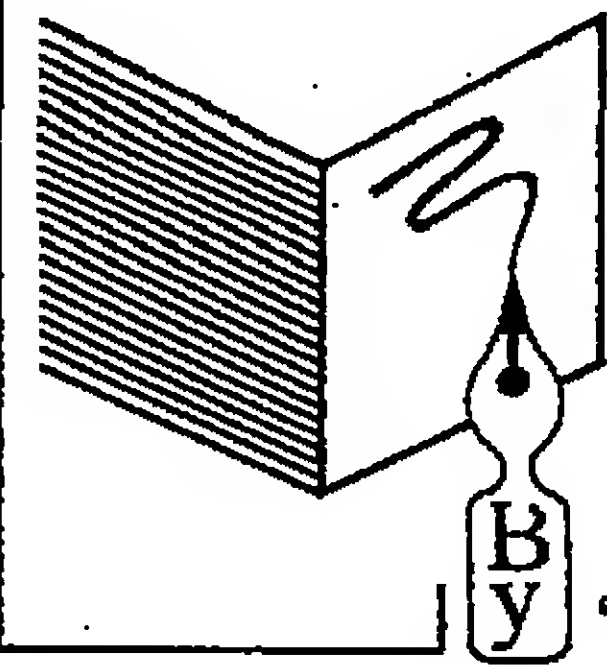
The French plans provide for the scrapping of these discriminatory provisions. Arms output quotas binding on all members are to be waived and the role of WEU bodies to be redefined. Later this year France intends to outline its proposals to a conference of the seven WEU countries' defence ministers.

Mr. Kohl and Mr. Mitterrand are shortly to meet again in Paris to resume their efforts to solve the controversial issues of EEC finances and reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. They failed to achieve a breakthrough at Edenkoben.

Another important issue they discussed was how they can help to get the stalled Geneva talks between the superpowers on a reduction in intercontinental and medium-range missiles back in business. The chancellor is to raise this point in talks in Washington early in March. — DaD.

Handwritten signature or note in Arabic script.

Happy the man who has a driving licence



AMMAN NOTEBOOK

Inad Khairallah

THE OTHER day I found my French friend again driving a rented car and advised him to get a Jordanian licence so that he could buy a local car and drive it rather than pay the high prices of renting one. "Is it so easy to obtain a local licence?" he asked me. I assured him all he needed was to go to the Licensing Department in Marka, armed with copies of his French licence, two photographs, his passport and residence permit and spend about one hour processing them.

The next thing he did was to call me and request me to accompany him to the Licensing Department and I obliged, after extracting a promise from him that he would treat me to lunch.

So, there we were, parking his rented car near the office in Marka the next day. We walked into the office which was already crowded. We picked up an application form from Counter No. 3 and since both of us had forgotten to carry a pen with us, we took it to one of those professional writers outside to get it filled up.

Name, the writer asked, with his pen poised over the form. It was given. The next was address, and my friend started to give the name of the building, street etc. but the writer said, that all were not necessary, just "Seventh Circle" will do. We offered the telephone number which was also brushed aside. My friend did not know his blood group so the writer decided it was A Positive and entered it. Other details such as passport number, nature of the French licence etc. were entered and stamps worth 200 fils were affixed to the copy of the French licence.

No colour photos

My friend produced two photographs which the writer informed us would not do because they were in colour. He pointed to a row of small shops behind him and said black and white photographs could be procured in a matter of 10 minutes. We went over to one of those "studios" and got my friend's photograph taken for a charge of JD 1.500 (six copies).

After a wait of about eight minutes we were given the black and white photographs and we took them to the writer who stapled one to the form. How much were his

charges, we asked him, and were told 750 fils — 350 fils for the stamps and 400 fils for himself. "It is too much," my friend said. "Sixteen francs? That is ridiculous," I advised him to pay the money. Why begrudge a poor man making a living?

So, my friend paid him and we re-entered the offices and joined a long queue at Counter No. 1 and since we found every one else in the queue carrying forms similar to the one my friend had, we thought it was the right one. Soon, it was my friend's turn and he was advised it was the wrong counter and he should go to Counter No. 3. We went over to Counter No. 3 where there were only three or four people but none behind the counter.

It takes patience

It took about 10 minutes before someone appeared behind the counter and started checking the application forms. It appeared that Counter No. 3 was for those who were already holding foreign licences. Our turn came up and my friend was about to handover his papers when a traffic policeman brushed him aside and submitted a set of papers. He shook hands with the man behind the counter and urged him to process his papers soon. A peep over the counter revealed to us that it was not his papers but those of someone holding a foreign passport, apparently a friend of his.

After all it was a policeman, so let him finish his business fast and get back to his duty, I told my friend. The policeman got his papers and beckoning to his friend who was leaning on a pillar away from us, he left us.

My friend proffered his papers once again but this time there was no-one behind the counter. The man behind the counter had already done one of his occasional vanishing acts and this time it took more than 10 minutes before he was back.

He took the papers from my friend, put a big seal on the photograph and started writing on it. He entered the passport number, details of the residence permit and the French licence from its original and was about to affix his signature when someone came over and engaged him in an animated conversation. We were

looking expectantly for him to hand over the papers and tell us what to do next. "Excuse me please," my friend appealed, but it fell on dead ears. Let him take his own time, I told my friend. "It never pays to antagonise a civil servant," goes the old saying, I reminded him.

Finally the man behind the counter turned his attention to the papers in front of him and started to write something on it again. A second later he realised all the writing had already been done and the only thing he had to do was just sign it which he did.

He handed over the papers back to my friend and it took two repetitions of a French-accented English question before we were told to go to Counter No. 13.

Employment contract

We were most relieved to see a one-star officer behind the counter and after the preliminary wait my friend gave him the papers. The officer scanned through the documents and returned it, demanding a copy of the contract my friend had with his employers. I asked him why. He said so said the regulations.

What contract? I asked again. The contract which stipulated that the French man was hired as a driver of his employer, the officer said. But, he was not employed as a driver, I pointed out. The officer looked at me sharply as if telling me to stop wasting his time and retook the papers but this time gave them more than a casual glance. "You are right," he said, "I thought he was employed as a heavy vehicle driver in Jordan". I had an urge to tell him it was written very clearly that my friend wanted a private licence in the application, and how come a senior officer like him missed it, but I stopped myself.

The officer wrote something in the form and directed us to the cashier.

'Reserved'

We went over to the other side of the enclosure and joined the queue again at the cashier's counter. We could find another big queue next to us and I was surprised to note that many from our queue, after finishing their business with the cashier were going over and replacing others, apparently their friends who "reserved" their places in the next queue.

I told my friend to stay on in the queue and ventured to find out what was the racket. It turned out to be the sight-test centre. I guessed that once we have paid the money to the cashier the next stage in the process was the sight-test and I thought it would be a good idea if I "reserved" a place for my friend in the queue. After

joining the queue I gestured to my friend that safely his place was "reserved" for sight-test.

My friend's turn came up at the cashier and after a second he turned around and beckoned me. By this time there was a sizeable crowd behind me and I had misgivings about going over to my friend's place in the queue. I looked around and the man behind me assured me that my place would still be available if I wanted to leave it for some time and come back. I thanked him and went over to my friend. "You have change, say 450 fils?" he asked. "I have to pay two dinars and 450 fils and I have two and a half dinars." Never mind, I told him, pay two and a half dinars and get the receipt. "But he does not want that," my friend said, indicating the cashier. I assured the cashier we had no intentions of tipping him, but since we were already late it would be nice if he kindly let us have the receipt and we would come and collect 50 fils later. He agreed and wrote on the back of the receipt that he owed us 50 fils.

Objection

I steered my friend to his "reserved" place at the sight-test queue. I was not happy with opposition coming from the gentleman who had been behind me against my friend joining the queue. "You were the one who was in the queue," he said. "If you yourself want to come and stand in the queue, you are welcome, but not this guy." I told him it was not my eyes that were to be tested but my friend's and I already hold a driving licence, so why would I want my eyes tested? "Nothing doing," the gentleman ruled. "Go to the back and rejoin the queue."

We had no alternative and were about to go about locating the tail end of the line when a two-wip officer (first lieutenant) came over and shouted at everyone to form a straight queue. There was a minor shuffling and I was surprised to find my friend almost at the front of the queue at the end of the queue. I immediately left the vicinity so as not to attract attention to my friend's trespass and waited at a far corner.

Soon, my friend was back with a triumphant smile. What happened, I asked him. Everything is okay, he assured me. How did the eye test go, I asked him. "It was nothing," he replied. "There is this man waiting with a funny looking pair of eye glasses and you are supposed to sit in a chair facing a mirror wearing them. The man would cover one of your eyes and point at semi-circles in an illuminated board behind you. You are supposed to look at the mirror and tell him where the circles open, to your left, right, upwards or downwards, that is all."

No Arabic, no English

I asked my friend whether he could satisfactorily answer the questions on signals. Before my friend could answer, a youth standing next to us whispered to us: "If he is a foreigner, it is okay. Let him pretend he understands neither Arabic nor English." I winked at my friend at this wise advice and told him to follow it.

Suddenly the door of the signal test room opened and an officer came out. "All those who can read and write may come in," he announced. More than half the crowd went in, leaving the rest wondering whether they would be given the test or not.

Minutes ticked away and one by one those inside came out. Some had triumphant looks and we presumed they were lucky in the test. One of the first ones to come was the traffic policeman with his friend. The policeman was patting his friend in the back grinning from ear to ear.

The door creaked open again and another officer announced that everyone who wanted to appear for the test may go in. There was a scramble at the door and the last I saw of my friend was his plait, being squeezed between the door and one of the fattest persons I have ever seen.

I knew it would take some time before the test was over so I decided to wander around. At one corner there was a group of people around a distinct yellow and white driving school car and there seemed to be some 10 or so girls waiting to take their driving tests. A middle-aged man, apparently their teacher, was trying his best to relieve them of their apprehensions of the tests. "If only you just follow my instructions," he was saying. "I am sure you will pass. Always remember to give signals and do not speed." I noted the instructions and thought I should pass it on to my friend.

"Adjust the mirrors and your seat before starting the car," the instructor went on, "and get the car moving when the inspector tells you to." "Make sure you do not park where signs prohibit parking," he cautioned, "even if the inspector tells you to. It is a trick to test your judgment." By this time an officially-looking man, accompanied by a man in uniform, announced the driving school's name and the instructor sent one of his students forward. She went over to the inspector, and every one could see the poor thing was frightened to death.

Under the instructions of the officer, she got behind the wheel, adjusted her seat and the mirrors and waited. The officer and his assistant got into the car and she slowly moved the car forward. Apparently the inspector was not satisfied with a driving test within

the compound. The car turned a bend and disappeared into one of the small streets in the area.

I went back to the signal test centre and spotted my French friend coming out. His face glowed at the sight of me, and I thought he had failed in the test. There goes a lunch down the drain, I thought. He reached me and growled: "Next time I know how to take your advice." I asked him what happened. "I followed your advice and told the examiner I do not speak English or Arabic, but he was about to tell me to go to a driving school and take lessons on signals, before I hastily added I understood a little English," my friend said. What happened next, I was eager to know. "Well, the examiner looked at me and I smiled at him, in a silent appeal. So he decided to conduct a test and somehow I managed to meet his minimum requirements, and got through," my friend said.

"If I had insisted I spoke only French, I would have been asked to go to a driving school and learn the signals first, and I would not have been able to re-appear for the test at least for 15 days. I know this, because this is what happened to a guy ahead of me who insisted he doesn't speak English or Arabic."

I had to concede he had a point there. Anyway, the most important thing was that he got through, I told my friend in attempt to win back his confidence and he looked at me doubtfully. "What next?" he asked. We had to get back to Counter No. 3, I told him and proceeded there. The clerk was behind the counter alright, but talking on the phone. He took his own time and upon our repeated offering of the form he just glanced at it, scribbled something on it and told us to go to the testing grounds. Since I had already located the testing ground there was no problem to get there and my friend went inside the walled compound. In another 15 minutes he took the wheel of a driving school car and I wondered how he got the vehicle. He had already reversed the car through an "S" bend made up of railings and parked the car between two oil drums, when a guy, apparently the examiner, waved to him to go forward again and my friend obliged.

The examiner wrote something on my friend's form and my friend in turn gave some money to another person who was standing next to him. I wondered what the whole thing was about and waited for my friend to come back. He promptly did so, with a bright smile on his face. "What happened?" I asked him. "I got through," my friend told me. But why you gave the money, I asked him. "No, no," he hastened to correct me. "It was one and a half dinars for the use of the driving school car," he told me.

Vivid memory

We went back to Counter No. 3 again and was directed to a counter next to the cashier, where my friend got a number for his licence. And my friend paid 16 dinars and 610 fils to the cashier. Of course the cashier remembered that he owed us fifty fils and refunded it, and told us to go to Counter 4. At Counter 4, a lady took my friend's form and told us to take some rest. We obliged and inquired from a person who was sitting next to us as to what we were supposed to do next. He asked us whether we had completed all the formalities, including the driving test and the payment of fees. When we said yes, he told us that my friend's name would be called soon and he could collect his licence and go home.

Promptly my friend's name was called and we collected his licence and were leaving the offices when we noticed a commotion outside the testing grounds: I spotted the girl who was giving a test, standing

aside and about to burst into tears, and the inspector and her driving instructor having some arguments.

Curiosity prompted us to go nearer. It appeared that the girl, hit another car with the driving school car and would not stop even ordered so by the inspector. So he had to apply the extra brake provided under the inspector's feet but it proved to be ineffective. Somehow the inspector managed to tell her to return to the point where she started and there they were, the inspector was mad the driving teacher for the student's stupidity and the ineffectiveness of the extra brake pedal.

We could see the girl sobbing. Her teacher approached her and scolded her: "Why did you not stop when the inspector asked you to?" he wanted to know. The girl looked up at him and asked haughtily: "There was a no-stop sign on the road, and did you not yourself tell us not to stop at such places even if the inspector asked us to?"

Paris is for artists, New York for police

By Robert Basler
Reuter

NEW YORK — Policemen are drawn to New York like artists to Paris or skiers to the Alps.

It is not America's most crime-ridden city, but its tough reputation and the certainty of plenty of mayhem to observe make it a big attraction for police from all over the world.

Every year hundreds of them, from dozens of countries, make pilgrimages to New York's Police Headquarters to satisfy some professional curiosity.

Some come officially, but most are just holidaymakers dropping in to say hello.

According to Scots Policeman Robert McLaren, a highlight of his recent holiday was an invitation to stroll Manhattan's unsavoury Times Square district in a New York police radio car.

Mr. McLaren, who seldom even carries a truncheon at home in Fife where there hasn't been a murder in two years, admitted to a certain thrill patrolling beside armed officers in a city that has 30 murders a week.

Visits like his have become so popular that some travel agents are even offering package tours, a practice officials here discourage, preferring to keep contacts more personal.

"They bring us plaques and sheilds and flags, and we give them a shoulder patch and a ride in a radio car," says police Lieutenant

Thomas Fahey, who spends a good part of his working day catering to the needs of visiting police.

In the past year, a Cairo policeman came by to talk about hostage negotiations, a sergeant from Sydney wanted a look at New York's Harbour operations, and some Tokyo police showed up for a look at the city's traffic problems.

A Scottish police expert on rape visited to meet her New York counterpart, police from Trinidad wanted to look at the department's special emergency equipment, and a corrections officer from Taiwan came to observe detention procedures.

They came from all over — commissioners from Peking and Abidjan, and police of all ranks from New South Wales to Korea, Northern Ireland to Algeria.

A world map on Lt. Fahey's office wall is almost illegible, covered with the autographs of his visiting colleagues.

Lt. Fahey says that he and his fellow officers enjoy the visits, swooping stores and talking about their problems. But there are differences.

"I look at some of these guys, and it's like being in a time warp," he says. "They're attacking problems in ways we tried 10 years ago. Of course, that doesn't mean it won't work for them."

The visits often given glimpses of emerging problems in other parts of the world.

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Watford storms into last 8 of English F.A. Cup

LONDON (R) — Watford solved the tricky problem of finding a suitable wedding present for chairman Elton John when they stormed into the quarter-finals of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup with a 3-1 home win over Brighton on Saturday.

The millionaire rock-singer, who was married in Australia in midweek and is now on honeymoon in New Zealand, listened to a live radio commentary on his hotel telephone at a cost of £130 (£182).

But it proved to be money well spent as Watford took their place in the last eight at the expense of last season's losing finalists after racing into an early 2-0 lead through their Scottish strike-force of George Reilly and Maurice Johnston.

Watford go into Monday's draw with Southampton, who beat Blackburn Friday night, Birmingham, shock conquerors of West Ham, Everton, Notts County, Sheffield Wednesday and Derby of the second division and third division Plymouth Argyle, 1-0 winners at West Bromwich.

Watford, who were languishing in the lower reaches of the fourth division six years ago, raced into a ninth minute lead through Reilly and there were further cheers from down under when Johnston netted his 16th goal in 18 games in the 26th minute.

Brighton briefly threatened to dampen Elton John's celebrations when Danny Wilson pulled one back with a 70th minute penalty but Kenny Jackett restored Watford's two-goal advantage four minutes later.

Third division strugglers Plymouth Argyle, in the quarter-finals for the first time in their 98-year history, were worthy winners at West Bromwich, Tommy Tynan scoring a memorable 57th minute winner.

Derby, third from the bottom of Division Two, ran Plymouth close with an unexpected 2-1 home win over Norwich. Veteran midfielder Archie Gemmill and Bobby Davison put Derby 2-0 ahead before Norwich striker John Deehan set up a thrilling climax by reducing the deficit four minutes from time.

Sheffield Wednesday, hot favourites for promotion to the first division, stayed on course for a famous double when they put an end to third division giant-killers Oxford's great run with a smooth 3-1 away win.

The manner of Birmingham's 3-0 win over championship hopefuls West Ham was no less surprising.

Robert Hopkins and Tony Rees put them 2-0 ahead within 13 minutes and when Tommy Wright added the third with a 78th minute penalty, hundreds of West Ham fans invaded the pitch.

Birmingham spectators were quick to join them and although order was restored there was a second invasion soon after and referee George Courtney took off both teams for 10 minutes while mounted police cleared the pitch.

Everton, who are likely to meet city rivals Liverpool in the League Cup final next month, kept their hopes alive of a second Wembley date with a comfortable 3-0 home win over second division Shrewsbury, while Notts County disposed of Middlesbrough 1-0.

There was no change at the top of the first division with all three important games ending in draws. Liverpool climbed on to the 56-point mark with a goalless draw at Luton. Second-placed Nottingham Forest failed to close the three-point gap when they shared two goals at struggling

Sunderland. Manchester United, another point away in third place, suffered the biggest setback of all when they were held 1-1 at bottom-of-the-table Wolverhampton, who are all but resigned to a hasty return to the second division.

The fourth round of the Scottish Cup provided little joy for the underdogs, Glasgow Celtic winning 6-0 at second division East Fife and city rivals Rangers running up the same score away from home against Inverness Caledonian of the Highland League.

But European Cup-Winners Cup holders Aberdeen, seeking their third successive triumph, had to fight all the way before subduing first division Clyde 2-0.

Premier League Champions Dundee United also made hard work of it against Hearts, who had to play for most of the game with 10 men after former international striker Jimmy Bone was ordered off in the 35th minute.

United eventually went ahead through Paul Sturrock but Hearts appeared to have earned themselves a replay when John Robertson converted a 70th minute penalty.

But, with almost the last kick of the game, Premier League top-scorer Davie Dodds struck to put United in the last eight.

Cairo shooting contest delayed

AMMAN (J.T.) — It looks that only Jordan, Kuwait and Egypt will be taking part in a shooting tournament in Cairo, a report in Al Ra'i newspaper from their correspondent said Saturday. However, Egypt, the host country has postponed the opening of the tournament until Wednesday hoping that Lebanon and Iraq or even other Arab states will be able to send teams to the competition.

The singles championship was due to start on Sunday. A lone competitor Khairi Yasser Omar will represent Jordan in this event.

On Saturday nearly 99 participants will take part in the clay pigeon shooting team event, including four competitors from Jordan: Ziyad Al Fakh, Khalid Odeh, Nader Shalhoub and Ahmad Jarrar.

The national Jordanian team which will take part in the opening matches on Wednesday has not been selected yet. According to the Jordanian coach, Ali Al Salem, the team will be announced once the training sessions are over in the coming few days.

Polo team receives invitations to play in India, Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Equestrian Federation has received an invitation from India to hold international polo matches in New Delhi and other Indian cities. Al Ra'i newspaper said that the federation has accepted the invitation and proposed early March as the best time for holding the

competitions. The federation also received another invitation from the Iraqi Equestrian team to attend the opening ceremony of an equestrian festival due to be held in Iraq in the coming few weeks. A two member team will represent the federation at the festival.



Finland's Matti Nykaenen outclasses arch-rivals to win 90-m ski jump at the Winter Olympics.

Finland's Haemaelainen becomes 1st triple gold medallist at Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Marja-Liisa Haemaelainen and Matti Nykaenen gave Finland a double cause for celebration on the penultimate day of the Winter Olympics Saturday.

Haemaelainen completed a hat-trick of cross-country skiing gold medals, and Nykaenen outclassed arch-rival Jens Weissflog of East Germany in the spectacular 90-metre ski jumping event.

But the East Germans hit back when Wolfgang Hoppe and Bernhard Lehmann scored a fine one-two triumph in the four-man bobs — a repeat of last Saturday's runaway success in the two-man test.

The victory kept East Germany ahead of the Soviet Union in the battle for overall games supremacy. The Russians remained three golds behind, although speed skater Igor Malkov added one to their tally with first place over 10,000 metres.

Haemaelainen, who almost quit nordic skiing because of poor results two years ago, carved herself a place in games history by becoming Sarajevo's first triple gold medallist.

She won the inaugural 20 km event Saturday, after romping home over five and 10 kilometres

earlier in the competition. The tall blonde also collected a bronze medal in the 4x5 km relay on Wednesday.

Two huge jumps of 116 and 111 metres gave Nykaenen revenge over Weissflog who forced him into second place on the 70-metre hill last weekend.

Weissflog took the silver medal comfortably enough, but on the day he was outclassed by the Finn, who became the youngest-ever world champion at 18 two years ago. Czechoslovak Pavel Floc, another top World Cup competitor, was third.

Hoppe underlined his bob-driving supremacy by setting the fastest time on all four runs. He was accompanied by Dietmar Schauerhammer — his brakeman in the two-man — Roland Wetzig and Andreas Kirchner.

Silvio Giobellina salvaged a little pride for Switzerland by leading his crew to the bronze medal.

World record holder Tomas Gustafson of Sweden, who beat Malkov to the 5,000 metres gold, had to make way for the Russian over the longer distance in a firing speed skating finale.

Two-hundredths of a second separated the rivals last Saturday. This time the margin was five-hundredths.

Dope test positive

Mongolian cross-country skier Purevjav Batsukh has been disqualified from the Winter Olympics because of a positive dope test, it was announced Saturday.

The chairman of the medical commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Prince Alexandre de Merode, told a press conference the 28-year-old Mongolian had given a positive urine sample after the men's 4x10 km relay on Thursday, in which he skied the first leg.

The test revealed traces of Met-handenone, one of the bulk building anabolic steroid drugs on the IOC's list of over 70 banned substances.

Merode said the Mongolians had not protested at the disqualification which left them unplaced in the 4x10 km relay with only three finishers. They were originally 15th among the 17 teams in the race, finishing more than 20 minutes behind Sweden, the winners.

Merode said Batsukh's was the only positive result among the 312 dope tests carried out so far at the games. A further 100 tests are scheduled before the Winter Olympics end Sunday.

NOC to reconsider regulations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, member of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) has expressed his dissatisfaction with bye-laws and internal regulations of the committee.

At the committee's last meeting Mr. Rawabdeh said that the regulations do not enable the committee to pursue its work, and requested that they be re-considered, according to a report in Al Ra'i newspaper Saturday. It said that this subject will be on the committee's agenda at next Thursday's meeting to be chaired by Dr. Abdullah Oweidat, Minister of Culture and Youth.

Also in the coming meeting, the committee members will review reports submitted to it by various Jordanian sports federations which hope to participate in this summer Los Angeles Olympic Games.

AP sports editor dies

SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia (R) — Geoffrey Miller, European sports editor for the Associated Press (A.P.), died Friday of an apparent heart attack in Sarajevo, where he was covering the Winter Olympics, the news agency said. He was 62.

A native of Bournemouth, England, Miller had covered every Olympics since 1968 and was a member of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) press commission. His final story was a profile of American Scot Hamilton, who won the men's figure skating gold medal on Thursday night.

In 1980 Miller published "Behind the Olympic Games," a book which drew on his extensive contacts in the sports world.

McEnroe takes challenge title

SYDNEY (R) — John McEnroe produced a typically petulant outburst as he won the four-man challenge tennis tournament by beating Argentine Guillermo Vilas 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 in the final here Saturday.

McEnroe cruised through the first two sets but ran into trouble with both Vilas and the crowd before taking the third to clinch the title.

The American hit balls into the net, slammed his racket into the ground and jeered at what he considered to be dubious line calls during the final set.

In the sixth game of the third set, McEnroe slammed a ball into the court, sending it bouncing high into the upper reaches of the vast arena. The outburst followed a

break by Vilas for the first time in the previous game.

McEnroe, despite landing less than 50 per cent of his first serves in the opening set, took that one and the next easily before Vilas offered sterner resistance in the third.

Tournament referee Bill Gilmore said later that McEnroe, who received a 21-day suspension for abusing an official during the Australian Indoor Championships here last October, had been reported for abusing a lineswoman in Saturday's final set.

Gilmore said he would study the lineswoman's report and then pass it to promoter Paul Dainty along with a recommendation on what action should be taken over the incident.

Leonard says he will fight despite second eye operation

BALTIMORE (R) — Former undisputed welterweight boxing champion Sugar Ray Leonard, dismissing the consequences of two eye operations and the pleas of fans and experts alike to stay retired, still plans to fight again.

"I've been declared fit and I'm fine," Leonard told a press conference Friday at Johns Hopkins hospital where he was examined after an eye operation earlier this week.

Asked if he would still fight Kevin Howard, Leonard said: "Yes, I will. First of all I don't think there'd be any major problem. There's been a lot of hysteria. No one really knew what happened to my right eye. Fortunately, everything turned out for the better."

Leonard, 27, retired in November 1982 with a record of 32 wins and one defeat after surgery to repair a partially detached retina in his left eye.

On Monday he underwent what was described as "preventive surgery" on his right eye by Dr. Ed-

ard Ryan of the Massachusetts eye and ear infirmary in Boston who diagnosed in a pre-fight examination that Leonard had a weakness in the retina.

Dr. Ronald Michels, who performed the original operation, said Friday: "Dr. Ryan and I are in agreement that Mr. Leonard should be allowed to resume his career. Our judgment now is that there is no excessive risk to his resuming his career."

Leonard still must be examined next week before final medical approval is given for his return to the ring.

He was originally due to fight Howard on February 25 but the bout has been postponed, probably to April or May.

Bugner defeated

COPENHAGEN (R) — Joe Bugner's hopes of staging a professional boxing comeback suffered a severe blow when the former European heavyweight champion was outpointed by Steffen Tangstad of Norway in a non-title fight here Saturday.

The 33-year-old Hungarian-born Briton, who twice took on Muhammad Ali in the 1970s, lost over 10 rounds on a split 2-1 decision.

Connors reaches semis with easy win over Mayotte

LA QUINTA, California (R) — Top-seeded Jimmy Connors easily defeated fellow-American Tim Mayotte 6-2, 6-1 to reach the semi-finals of the \$225,000 La Quinta Classic Tennis Tournament.

The other three top seeds also won. Second-seeded Yannick Noah of France beat American Eliot Teltscher 6-1, 6-0, third-seeded American Jimmy Arias defeated Israel's Shlomo Glickstein 6-3, 7-6 and Spain's Jose Higueras, seeded fourth, eliminated American Scott Davis 6-1, 6-3.

Connors, who says he especially

enjoys this tournament setting, has lost no sets and only 11 games this week, having received a first-round bye, as did the other top seeds.

"I was eager to play today. I came out and had a good practice. I like to play early because then, win or lose, you have time to do other things — spend some time with the family," said Connors, who plays Higueras in the semi-final.

Noah said he was improving after a shaky beginning. "I feel good. I'm happy. In fact, I'm surprised with the improvement I've made."

Olympic organisers to go ahead with torch relay scheme

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Los Angeles Olympic Games organisers Saturday said they would go ahead with a torch relay benefit scheme for children despite protests of commercialism.

The organisers plan to raise money for U.S. youth sports by allowing commercial organisations to sponsor one-kilometre legs of the traditional Olympic torch relay for \$3,000 a leg.

The flame will be carried for about 12,000 miles (19,000 km) through the United States on its way to the summer games.

Spyros Fotinos, mayor of the Greek town of Olympia which is the guardian of the flame between games, has said the scheme represents an "unholy commercialisation" of the Olympic flame.

The Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee said in a statement Saturday: "We are going ahead with our plans for the torch relay because it is a positive programme that deserves a positive resolution."

"We believe that a programme that benefits children should not be interfered with or maligned."

England kicks their way to five nations rugby win

LONDON (R) — England scraped home 12-9 in their five nations rugby union match against Ireland at Twickenham here Saturday in an error-ridden game in which all the points came from kicks.

For England, fullback Dusty Hare kicked three penalties from four attempts and flyhalf Les Cusworth dropped a goal, while recalled flyhalf Tony Ward kicked three penalties for Ireland.

To their credit, England consistently attempted to run the ball

but were let down by persistent passing and handling errors. The result means they have not scored a try in their last three home championship games.

Ireland, joint champions last year and outright champions the previous season, have lost all three championship games this year and seem destined to finish bottom of the table.

At Cardiff, Wales, France confirmed their billing as favourites to lift the championship when they beat Wales for the first time for 16 years.

Flyhalf Jean-Patrick Lescaur was the hero of his side's 21-16 win, equalling the French record of 17 points in a single international for the second successive match.

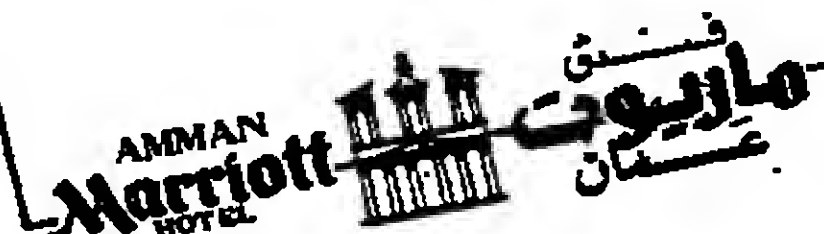
Lescaur scored four penalties, dropped a goal and converted Philippe Sella's try as the Welsh crashed to their second home defeat in the championship.

Fullback Howell Davies converted his own try and added two penalties for the Welsh, while former skipper Eddie Butler went over for a try.

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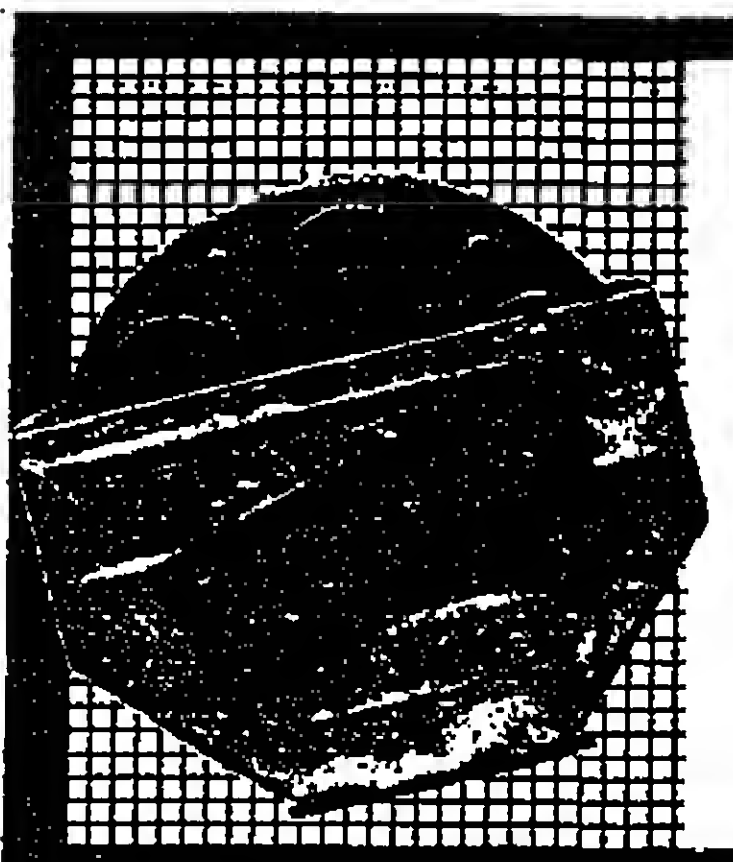
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"Arabic Film"
(Colour)
Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Turkey to build new Bosphorous crossing

ANKARA (R) — Turkey with American help will build a new link between Europe and Asia under the Bosphorous at Istanbul at an estimated cost of around \$1 billion, U.S. government officials said here Friday.

The tunnel would consist of 9,000 metres of tube, of which 7,000 metres will be underground and 2,000 metres submerged.

A U.S. trade and development programme team is involved in planning the tunnel.

The officials said a feasibility plan for a 12 kilometre railway link is to be prepared by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) and a Turkish-American joint venture will eventually be set up to build the project.

The railway line will run from

Yenikapi district on the European side of Bosphorous to the Sogutlucesme district on the Asian side, they said.

The tunnel is expected to cost around \$550 million and the rail line around \$450 million, most of which would be covered by U.S. government credits, the officials said.

The railway line on the Asian side will later be linked to the national rail network making a direct connection between Europe and Asia.

No date has been given for construction to start. The only other direct link between the two continents is a bridge across the Bosphorous constructed by Cleveland Hochstetler, an Anglo-German consortium, and opened in 1973.

Singapore petrochemical complex starts production

SINGAPORE (R) — South East Asia's first petrochemical complex, the biggest industrial project in Singapore, began production Saturday with its profitability clouded by financial snags.

Officials of the Singapore government and Japanese companies which helped build the \$1 billion complex on the outlying island of Ayer Merbau switched on the main cracker plant.

"This ceremony witnesses the beginning of the operation of the first petrochemical complex ever built in South East Asia," said Mr. Norihige Hasegawa, chairman of the Sumitomo Chemical Company.

His firm leads more than 30 Japanese companies in the Petrochemical Corporation of Singapore (PCS), formed with 50 per cent equity from the Singapore government.

He said that despite signs of world economic recovery, severe

difficulties in the petrochemical markets still linger in Japan, Europe and the United States.

Finance Minister Tony Tan said "much more remains to be done to secure its viability."

PCS Chairman J.Y.M. Pillay told reporters estimates of losses of about \$10 to \$15 million this year could still go up depending on the market.

Asked when the project could expect to show a profit, Mr. Pillay said, "We have not looked that far ahead because the situation has changed radically in one year and that could continue."

At the start-up ceremony, officials opened the valve leading to a furnace where naphtha, the plant's raw material, is processed.

Start-up was delayed more than a year by a search for cheaper feedstock, interest financing and the withdrawal from the project of Mitsui Petrochemical Industries.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Apple opens plant in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (R) — Apple, a pioneer in personal computers, is opening a plant in Mexico to produce Spanish-language computers for sale throughout Latin America and in the United States, company officials said. Apple Mexico is owned to 51 per cent by a Mexican holding company and private investors, with 49 per cent controlled by Apple Co., of the United States. Apple Mexico President Richard Hojel told reporters the first Mexican-made, Spanish-language Apple II-E will be on the market on April 2. He added that his company expected its 65-employee plant to produce 5,000 personal computers this year.

Iraq offers jobs for 50,000 Thais

BANGKOK (R) — Iraq has offered jobs for about 50,000 Thai construction workers and proposed to pay 70 per cent of their wages in crude oil and the remainder in cash, Thai labour department officials said Friday. They gave no other details and declined to disclose the Thai government reaction. But the officials said the department would send a delegation to the Middle East, probably next week, which may discuss the offer there.

Riyadh urges companies to buy more oil

NEW YORK (R) — Saudi Arabia is urging Exxon, Mobil, Texaco and the Standard Oil Company of California to step up their oil purchases, U.S. industry sources said Friday. An official of one of the companies said the Saudis were urging them to ship more crude "for the first time in a long time." He attributed this to Saudi concern about falling output. His company estimates that Saudi production has fallen to about four million barrels per day. Saudi Arabia wants to prevent production falling below that level, he added.

IMF team to visit Lagos in March

NEW YORK (R) — An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team will visit Nigeria next month to continue talks on the Lagos government's request for more than \$2 billion in loans. Nigerian Finance Minister Onaolapo Soyeye said Friday. Asked whether the two sides differed on a need to devalue the naira, Mr. Soyeye said, "disagreement on a devaluation is not substantive but technical." He added: "if we had not made substantial progress there would be no need for the IMF to go to Nigeria in two weeks' time."

EC ministers start informal talks

LA CELLE ST. CLOUD, France (R) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers Saturday start a weekend of discussions on ensuring progress at a crucial summit next month, with the beleaguered group's financial crisis pushing it closer to bankruptcy.

Diplomats said worried foreign ministers were expected to press France for a clear lead in advancing vital negotiations for financial reform which collapsed with the failure of the December summit in Athens.

France took over the community presidency on Jan. 1 but has said very little so far about what ought to be done while stressing that another summit failure could be catastrophic for the 11-nation group, according to diplomats.

French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, who will chair the meeting at a secluded chateau near the former royal capital of Versailles, was expected to come under pressure to show his hand a

month before the March 19 Brussels summit.

Diplomats said it had although some technical discussions had continued at lower levels and pointed to possible compromises on a few issues, community splits on the major problems blocking accord appeared to be as wide as ever.

No progress has been made on solving the perennial British budget overpayments' problem or some of the controversial farm policy problems at the heart of the community's crisis.

French President Francois Mitterrand, who has taken charge of the reform negotiations since Paris took over the community reins, has visited most capitals in recent weeks.

Texaco pays \$4b, fulfils Getty takeover

NEW YORK (AP) — Texaco Inc. paid out \$4.07 billion in cash Friday to complete a \$10.13 billion takeover of Getty Oil Co.

Texaco also filed papers in Delaware to make Getty a wholly owned subsidiary, formally ending the independence of a Los Angeles-based oil company that late billionaire J. Paul Getty built into the United States' 14th-largest oil concern.

By taking over Getty, Texaco increases its assets by one-third and doubles its oil reserves. But Texaco remains the number three oil company behind Exxon Corp. and Mobil Corp.

Texaco announced that it paid \$128 a share in cash for the \$31.8 million Getty shares held by the Sarah C. Getty Trust.

Earlier this week, Texaco put down \$5.68 billion for the 9.3 million Getty shares held by the J. Paul Getty Museum and the 35.1 million publicly held shares that were submitted to Texaco under terms of its tender offer.

At a cost of \$10.13 billion, the Texaco-Getty deal ranks as the largest in history, surpassing the approximately \$7.8 billion that Du Pont Co. paid for Conoco Inc. in 1981.

Creditors, liquidators agree in principle on winding up Banco Ambrosiano's assets

GENEVA (R) — Creditors and liquidators of Banco Ambrosiano, which crashed in 1982, said Friday they had reached an agreement in principle on winding up its assets.

Officials were reluctant to give details of the accord, but they said it included a go-ahead by the creditor banks to liquidate Banco Ambrosiano Holding S.A., Ambrosiano's Luxembourg subsidiary said to owe 88 banks around \$450 million.

The officials — including liquidators appointed by the Bank of Italy and a steering committee for the 88 banks — described discussions Friday and Thursday as very satisfactory and said no further meetings had been scheduled for the time being.

Legal problems remain
In London, banking sources noted that the agreement in principle was reached only with representatives of the parties concerned.

There were still legal and technical difficulties to be resolved before a formal settlement could be offered to all the creditors of what had been Italy's largest bank, they said.

The Ambrosiano bankruptcy attracted wide publicity partly because of the bank's close involvement with the Vatican.

The body of Ambrosiano chairman Roberto Calvi — dubbed "God's banker" — was found dead, hanging under Blackfriars bridge in London in June, 1982.

Vatican bank will contribute large amount

The Italian government has said the Vatican bank, Istituto per le Opere di Religione (IOR), will contribute a significant amount to the final settlement for Ambrosiano's creditors. The Vatican says IOR unwittingly owned 13 Panamanian firms into which \$1.3 billion from

Ambrosiano disappeared.

An announcement was not expected Friday, although Italian authorities have been under pressure to conclude some arrangement ahead of Saturday's signing of a new Concordat between the Vatican and the Italian government.

But the officials told reporters Friday's agreement was not linked with the Concordat, which will end Catholicism's role as Italy's state religion.

Vatican sources said Friday that the Italian government will seek a private understanding with the Vatican bank which would regulate its dealings in Italy.

The Vatican is expected to agree to such an understanding, they added.

The go-ahead to liquidate the Luxembourg bank applies also to the sale of its holding of some 51 per cent in the Swiss-based Banca

del Gottardo, the officials said.

A final agreement on how much the creditors receive will depend largely on how much it is able to raise.

Credit Suisse First Boston is negotiating the sale and officials in Zurich said Thursday an announcement about a purchaser could be made within three to six weeks.

Under the proposal discussed here, the \$600 to \$650 million in available assets would be used first to meet claims of the 88 banks, represented by loan syndicate leaders National Westminster Bank and Midland Bank of Britain.

Bankers have said it is group could receive some \$31.5 million and other creditors of the Luxembourg subsidiary another \$100 million.

Creditors of the parent bank and a Nassau subsidiary would receive some \$200 million.

China construction firm seeks more foreign jobs

PEKING (R) — China's state construction firm is searching for more overseas contracts this year after almost doubling its business last year, the official China Daily reported Saturday.

The China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) started the year with a \$170 million contract to build four dams for an Iraqi irrigation scheme, its General Manager Zhang Enshu told the paper.

Last year, CSCEC signed agreements worth \$245 million and Mr. Zhang said he expected the volume of overseas work to rise by about 20 per cent this year.

China is providing increasing competition to South Koreans for the lucrative building contracts available in the Middle East.

Contracts won by the Chinese so far include an urban building programme in Algeria, an oil refinery in Iraq and the new presidential palace in Yemen, Mr. Zhang said.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"Your wife called. She wants you to bring home a loaf of bread, a bag of potatoes, a hug and a smile!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KECHO

POSOW

REMPIT

ENGOUT

You've had enough!

WHAT A MAN WHO DRINKS TO FORGET OFTEN FORGETS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: TO

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ABHOR SHINY INVENT PIRACY

Answer: A type of melody evidently requiring considerable effort — "STRAIN"

Peanuts

THIS YEAR I'M NOT GOING TO BUY ANY VALENTINES...

INSTEAD, I'M GOING TO MAKE MY OWN...

Dear Valentine

WHO ARE YOU SENDING THEM TO... PEOPLE YOU DON'T LIKE?

Mutt 'n' Jeff

I SAID IT WAS MY FAULT! I ASKED FOR THE WRONG SIZE!

YOU ARE RIGHT, SIR! I GAVE YOU SIZE SIXTEEN!

I KNOW! I KNOW! ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING? YOU ARE RIGHT, SIR!

HERE, HERE, STOP ARGUING WITH THE CUSTOMER! DON'T YOU KNOW THE POLICY OF OUR STORE?

SURE, I DO BOSS! "THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT!" BUT THIS GUY INSISTS HE WAS WRONG!

Andy Capp

OH, THANKS, ANDY. YOU'RE A GREAT COMFORT

DON'T FEEL ANY REMORSE ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE THOUGHT ABOUT HER, CHALKIE — SHE'S PROBABLY THOUGHT MUCH WORSE THINGS ABOUT YOU

THE Daily Crossword by Peter Swift

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Followed suit	1 As well as
5 Hog-like animal	2 Rain hard
10 Freight boat	3 Precedes
14 Ear feature	4 Flend
15 Sports palace	5 Sailor
16 Aa	6 Onassis
17 Naval craft	7 Await a decision
20 Actor Welles	8 Unable to act
21 Visionaries	9 Marathon runner
22 Snooze	10 Close with force
25 Numerical prefix	11 Shipping container
26 At a ship's stern	12 Above
29 Alaskan city	13 "Star..."
	14 Soon
	15 Calf
	16 Divan
	17 Mercator collection
	18 Forward part
	19 God of love
	20 WWII battle site
	21 Where a tower leans
	22 Onion's relative
	23 Historic periods
	24 Roadster, e.g.
	25 No matter which

U.S., Soviets hold first talks after Andropov's death

VIENNA (Agencies) — The first talks between the United States and the Soviet Union since the death last week of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov took place in Vienna this week on nuclear non-proliferation, U.S. sources said Friday.

The sources said the talks, of which no details were available, took place at the United States embassy between Richard Kennedy, U.S. ambassador-at-large for nuclear affairs, and A.M. Petrosian, head of the Soviet Atomic Energy Commission.

"The United States and the Soviet Union are members of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which meets here next week, and non-proliferation is one of the fields covered by the IAEA," an embassy spokesman said.

The agency, formed in 1957, is a United Nations body for the promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

IAEA sources said the fact that

Mr. Kennedy was a member of the agency's board of governors while Mr. Petrosian was not, added greater significance to the talks.

The Soviets suspended nuclear arms talks with the United States late last year in Geneva, and talks on conventional arms in Vienna are in recess until March 15.

"We have been conducting bilateral consultations with Soviet officials on a wide range of non-proliferation matters," Mr. Kennedy said Friday. In a telephone interview, he said the talks started Thursday and were scheduled to end Saturday afternoon.

The basis of the U.S.-Soviet talks is the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), signed in July 1, 1968. It entered into force on March 5, 1970.

In Moscow, two commentaries in the state-run Soviet media Friday signalled little immediate change under new leader Konstantin Chernenko in Moscow's stance in the stalled attempts to reduce nuclear arms in Europe.

The official News Agency TASS attacked West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other unnamed Western leaders for what it called attempts "to lull the public" in Western Europe into accepting new U.S.-built nuclear missiles as a boost to NATO defence.

TASS repeated frequent Soviet assurances that there is no threat to Western Europe from the Soviet Union. NA JTO says it has undertaken its missile programme in response to the threat from Soviet SS-20 Medium range nuclear missiles targeted on Western Europe. TASS reiterated that the Western missile programme does "serious damage" to European and world security, but did not re-state Moscow's condition for the resumption of the Geneva talks to reduce nuclear arms in Europe.

U.S. army forming 'light' divisions

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. army is forming two "light" infantry divisions designed for quick deployment to potential world trouble spots, defence officials said this week.

The units will have 10,200 men each, compared with 18,500 in a regular division, and can be airlifted to crisis points in a third of the time of regular divisions.

Army officials disclosed the details this week as they went ahead with planning for the first light division to be in operation by this summer.

Defence officials said that after the Vietnam war the army concentrated on heavier mobile divisions with substantial tank and armoured personnel carrier forces, big guns and truck transports. They were designed chiefly to fight the large divisions of the Soviet Union in any major conflict in Europe.

But the officials said the need had now arisen for a force capable of fighting "low intensity" battles, short of major warfare, and army planners had developed the concept of the light division to meet it.

U.S. confirms Stone's resignation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Richard Stone, a key figure in the Reagan administration's Central American efforts, is stepping down from his job as President Reagan's special envoy to the troubled region, a White House spokesman said Friday.

"Ambassador Stone has submitted his resignation and the president has accepted it with great regret and with deep personal appreciation for his knowledge, determination and skill in developing and executing U.S. policy in Central America," said White House spokesman Larry Speakes.

He added that Mr. Stone "has indicated he would like to return to the private sector but at the same time remain available to the administration and to the president." Asked if Mr. Stone would be given another job in the administration, Mr. Speakes said that the "president plans to draw on his counsel in the coming weeks and

months."

Harry Shlaudeman, former ambassador to Argentina and executive director of the Kissinger Commission on Central America, will replace Mr. Stone, Mr. Speakes said.

Mr. Stone was said to be leaving after becoming involved in "personal differences" with at least one other key figure in the administration. His resignation was said to have involved no policy differences with Mr. Reagan.

One official, who asked to remain anonymous, said it "was no secret there was open warfare" between Mr. Stone and Mr. Langhorne Motley, the assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

This official said Mr. Stone was upset because he felt Mr. Motley kept information from him and other senior officials, and Mr. Stone decided to resign because his "temper is a lot shorter than

everybody else's."

'Crisis in U.S. policy'

In Managua, Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega said Friday the resignation of U.S. special envoy Richard Stone "shows the crisis in U.S. foreign policy and the lack of coherence in its policy on the Central American conflict."

Mr. Ortega spoke with reporters when he arrived from Moscow, where he attended the funeral of Soviet President Yuri Andropov.

"I cannot say for the moment if Mr. Stone's resignation will increase tension in Central America, but independently of that and the efforts the ambassador (Stone) made, what is seen here is the lack of unity in the criteria of the North American government and the evidence of crisis in its foreign policy," Mr. Ortega said.

8 Western states to test Britain's air defence

LONDON (R) — Eight Western countries will mount more than 900 mock air attacks next month in a major three-day test of Britain's ability to defend itself.

Air force officers said the exercise, codenamed "Elder Forest 84" and due to start on March 5, would be like a jet-age version of the 1940 Battle of Britain when British fighter planes denied Germany mastery of the skies.

Aircraft from Denmark, Norway, Belgium, France, West Germany and the Netherlands will take part along with Canadian planes based in the Netherlands and American warplanes stationed in Britain and on the carrier Independence.

U.S. team to visit Hanoi for talks on missing troops

BANGKOK (R) — A high-level U.S. government delegation will leave here for Hanoi Saturday for talks with Vietnamese officials on the search for American servicemen listed as Missing in Action (MIA) in the Vietnam war.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said the five-member delegation, led by Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Armitage, was likely to be in Vietnam for several days "to get things on track" in Washington's continuing efforts to account for 2,490 Americans still missing from the Vietnam war.

The United States pulled its troops out of South Vietnam in 1973 following the Paris peace talks, but the war did not end until 1975 when North Vietnamese forces captured Saigon and reunified the country.

The spokesman said it was not yet known whom the delegation members would meet while in Hanoi or the specific topics of discussion.

"I don't know if we'll see immediate results but the main purpose of the trip is to indicate to them (the Vietnamese) the highest priority we attach to the MIA question and to get things on track," he added.

He said the Hanoi government informed some private org-

anisations in the United States four weeks ago that it had recovered the remains of three missing U.S. servicemen.

But he said the Armitage trip was not directly related to those remains, adding that "we hope for more substantial findings."

He said he did not think Hanoi would have agreed to a visit by a top-level delegation if it intended only to provide the remains of several servicemen.

In addition to Mr. Armitage, other members of the delegation are Ann Mills Griffiths, head of the National League of Families, a private group formed to help locate the missing Americans, Richard Childress of the White House National Security Council staff and two State Department officials.

Mr. Armitage visited Hanoi two years ago on a similar mission.

Vietnam has in the past blamed the "systematic hostile attitude of U.S. authorities" for slow progress in the search for Americans still unaccounted for since the war.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach recently told reporters it was difficult to get Vietnamese peasants to co-operate in searching when they knew Washington was hostile towards their country.

Angola said to have agreed to check SWAPO attacks

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — Amid fresh hopes for peace in the region, Angola has agreed to rein in black-nationalist guerrillas fighting South Africa for control of South West Africa, it was learned Friday.

A well-placed diplomatic source said Angola agreed to set up an undefined mechanism to guarantee fighters of the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) would not take advantage of South Africa's promise to "disengage" its forces from the Angolan south. The source did not provide details.

From its bases in Angola, SWAPO has fought for 17 years to wrest control from South Africa of South West Africa, a mineral-rich region widely known as Namibia. An announcement Thursday said Angola and South Africa agreed to form a commission to monitor disengagement violations. It said this was a step toward bringing Namibia to independence as repeatedly demanded by the United Nations.

The diplomatic source, who asked not to be further identified, said the sides agreed that along with creating the commission, military action by SWAPO would constitute a violation that would be discussed by the commission.

While leaving many questions about the joint monitoring commission unanswered, the source said Angolan and South African representatives would hold regular meetings. The South African Broadcasting Corporation reported Friday that the session was scheduled "within the next two weeks."

The source also said such meetings will take into consideration Namibia's more than a dozen internal political parties.

Mark's girlfriend meets Thatcher

LONDON (R) — Mark Thatcher, 30, Friday night took his Texas girlfriend Karen Forston home to meet his mother, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Miss Forston, 24, daughter of a multi-millionaire oil tycoon from Fort Worth, arrived with Mark Thatcher to spend the weekend at Chequers, the prime minister's official country residence. The prime minister's office at Downing Street refused to discuss Mr. Thatcher's weekend guest list, but reporters watched as the couple were driven at speed into the grounds of Chequers. Earlier in London, the prime minister brushed aside questions about meeting her son's latest girlfriend, Mark Thatcher has been a British newspaper headlines in recent weeks because of a political row over his business activities. Miss Forston arrived in London on Thursday with Mark on a flight from Dallas.

Amsterdam approves free heroin scheme

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — The Amsterdam City Council has tentatively approved a plan to provide free heroin to a selected group of drug addicts, despite the Dutch government's heavy criticism of it. The plan calls for distribution of free heroin to 30 of the Dutch capital's estimated 1,200 "dangerously" addicted drug users for a one-year trial period. Multi-party support for the scheme, due for a final council vote in April, is conditional on approval by the national government authorities in the Hague, according to city hall spokesman Aad Van Corvenbergh. The plan, intended to undermine the illegal market in so-called "hard" drugs and to regulate the addicts' habits and thereby curb drug-related crime, drew heavy criticism from Willem Van Der Reijden, deputy minister of public health in the current centre-right Dutch government. Mr. Van der Reijden said in a letter to Amsterdam mayor Ed Van Thijn that the scheme will attract more drug addicts from abroad.

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Filipino judge dismisses case against ex-senator

MANILA (R) — A judge Saturday dismissed charges against Philippine opposition leader Salvador Laurel who was stopped Friday from leaving for the United States when a gold-plated pistol was found in his luggage.

The case was tossed out of court shortly after President Ferdinand Marcos ordered a re-investigation of the charges and said Mr. Laurel, a former senator, was free to go to the United States as planned.

Mr. Laurel had denied the gun was his and said it was planted. He had faced charges of illegal possession of firearms, which carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

The packed court erupted into cheers and singing when Judge Dionisio Capistrano announced the case dismissed.

"If any party is unhappy about the judgment, the next recourse is the high court," he declared above the hubbub.

Mr. Laurel, a close ally of murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino, told reporters "I feel vindicated." He said he would leave for San Francisco as soon as possible.

The 54-year-old former senator, leader of the main anti-Marcos

political movement, was stopped from leaving Manila Airport after security guards said they found a Belgian-made 9mm Luger in his suitcase.

They said the weapon, wrapped in tin foil, showed up on an X-ray detector.

Mr. Laurel spent Friday night at a jail near the airport after more than nine hours of questioning by police, security officers and prosecutors.

The court was crowded with friends, supporters, members of his family, fellow politicians and a team of about 40 lawyers who turned up to represent him.

Mr. Laurel was to have delivered the main speech at a rally in San Francisco commemorating former Senator Aquino, who was shot at Manila Airport last August on his return to the Philippines after three years voluntary exile in the United States.

He was also going to Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Washington, where he was to meet congressional leaders.

Friends of the family said Mr. Laurel and his actress wife Celia would probably leave for the United States Sunday.

Man appears in court over Sydney bomb threat

SYDNEY (F) — A 72-year-old man accused of threatening to blow up a Sydney hotel with gelignite over a tenancy dispute appeared in court Saturday hours after a 10-hour siege ended.

John Alexander Hay, a former opal miner who has an opal shop in the Hyatt Kingsgate Hotel, was charged with possessing 23 kilos of gelignite for an illegal purpose.

He was refused bail.

The prosecutor, Sergeant Terry Gannon, told the court that police had asked Mr. Hay to what extent the explosives would have damaged the hotel.

"He said it would have dropped the building into the King's Cross Road Tunnel," Gannon said. "His knowledge of explosives is excellent, so his prediction must be given some credence."

Defence lawyer Bruce Oslington said Mr. Hay had a grievance over his tenancy of the shop.

The hotel was evacuated and surrounding roads were sealed off by police, causing massive traffic upheavals which lasted until the siege ended.

Argentina accepts British proposals

LONDON (R) — Argentine President Raul Alfonsín was quoted Saturday as saying he accepted British proposals over the disputed Falkland Islands as a basis to start discussions.

In an interview in Buenos Aires with Britain's Daily Mail newspaper, Mr. Alfonsín said: "We have accepted the points that Great Britain would like to discuss and have added other points which we would like to discuss."

"We would be willing to explore any possible path towards the solution we are looking for."

The British Foreign Office said Friday that it had received a reply from Argentina to its proposals,

but gave no details of proposals or reply.

Official Argentine sources say Britain has called for a normalisation of diplomatic, commercial and cultural links, severed by the 1982 conflict over the disputed South Atlantic islands.

The Daily Mail, in a front-page report, quoted President Alfonsín as saying: "We have added one or two points of our own. For us it is fundamental to end the exclusion zone and the fortification of the islands which is a great problem for the South Atlantic."

The Daily Mail said Mr. Alfonsín appeared not to set any pre-conditions for the talks.

S. Africa, Mozambique to continue peace talks

CAPE TOWN (R) — South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha will lead a high-level delegation to Mozambique on Monday for talks on improving relations with Maputo, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement Saturday.

The meeting, scheduled to last one day, would follow up on talks between officials of the two countries on Jan. 16 on ways to achieve peace and security after years of hostilities.

Political analysts said the sudden flurry of South African diplomatic contacts to improve previously strained relations with neighbouring black states reflected Pretoria's new policy of reducing tension around its borders.

The Foreign Ministry said the South African delegation would also include Law and Order Minister Louis Le Grange and Defence Minister General Magnus Malan.

Mozambique's negotiators would be led by Economic Affairs Minister Jacinto Soares Veloso and include Justice Minister Jose Oscar Monteiro.

The statement added: "The two delegations will review results achieved by working groups which met in Maputo and Pretoria on Jan. 16 with particular attention to the security requirements of the two countries which are considered to be a decisive element in the initiative to improve relations."

The most important of the Jan. 16 meetings took place in Pretoria and focused on security matters. Both governments have accused the other of supporting rebel movements in their respective countries.

The talks were regarded as a breakthrough after years of heated rhetoric between the two states with markedly different outlooks.

"We would like to start our discussions with an open agenda," he was quoted as saying.

Argentina's former military government invaded the Falkland Islands in 1982, but Britain recaptured them after a 10-week conflict in which over 1,000 lives were lost.

According to the Daily Mail, Mr. Alfonsín said he was party of British descent.

It quoted him as saying: "Although it is not convenient to say this too much in Argentina at the moment, I am myself of British descent: Spanish on one side, British on the other."

European, American volunteers in Nicaragua have few complaints

By Bernd Debusmann

PUNTA NATA, Nicaragua — Few of the volunteers had expected conditions quite so tough — searing heat, dust, spartan accommodation and meals, frequent lack of water and exhausting work.

But after the initial shock and bouts of illness there have been few complaints from the European and American volunteers who have come to Nicaragua to help pick coffee and cotton as a gesture of support for the country's leftist revolution.

"If the culture shock has not been restricted to the foreigners, Nicaraguan immigration officials stated in wonder late last year when the first plane-load of 160 West Germans arrived.

Some of the men sported ear-rings, others mohican-style haircuts, while some walked barefoot.

They have been followed this year by about 1,500 volunteers from the Netherlands, Belgium, West Germany, Austria, Norway,

Luxembourg, Spain, Venezuela and the United States.

Nicaragua is fighting U.S.-backed insurgents in a war which is diverting manpower and scarce resources from the agricultural base of this country of 2.7 million people. The volunteers campaign, promoted by solidarity committees in Europe and the U.S., was launched late last year to help Nicaragua during the coffee and cotton harvest.

They pay their own airfare, but food and accommodation during their stay, normally two weeks, are covered by the government.

"I'm glad I came," said Stewart Rosenfield, 24, a customs broker from Seattle. "I finally know what Third World poverty means. I finally know what it means when they say the U.S. is tightening the economic screws. I finally know the result of military pressure."

He was one of a brigade of Americans working in Punta Nata, on the Pacific Ocean coast of Nicaragua.

But the volunteers' efforts only scratch at the problem. Nicaragua is desperately short of labour, and

many of its U.S.-made cotton-picking machines are idle for lack of spare parts.

The volunteers cannot hope to compete with Nicaraguan cotton pickers. By the time the first American brigade completed its two weeks in January, the average daily production had risen from 22 pounds to 35 pounds (10 kilograms) to 16 kilograms.

A skilled Nicaraguan picks around 120 pounds (54 kilograms) a day.

But although the "internationalists" have limited value as crop pickers, the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) clearly sees them as weapons in Nicaragua's propaganda war with the U.S. government.

The U.S. administration argues that Nicaragua has become a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship since the Sandinistas overthrew the right-wing dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

It says dissent is stifled, the press suppressed and freedom of opinion crushed. Langhorne Motley, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, recently



termed the country a "concentration camp."

But volunteer Ben Herrera, a 30-year-old machinist from Sacramento, California, said: "When we get home, we'll spread the word on what's really happening here... We now know for certain that our government is lying about Nicaragua."

Many volunteers — from all walks of life, with a big number of blue-collar workers — said they were amazed by the level of open discussion and criticism of the Nicaraguan government.

"People here are not afraid to speak out. If they don't like something the government is doing,

they say so. I was really surprised at the freedom to dissent," said Donna Canali, a 36-year-old nurse from San Francisco.

By the standards of the American volunteers, Punta Nata is desperately poor. By the standards of Central America, the village on the Gulf of Fonseca is nothing out of the ordinary and its health care is better than average.

"Being here helps you get things into perspective," said Michael Murphy, 32, a carpenter from West Virginia. "None of us are rich in U.S. terms, but we have more in our backpacks than most people here own in a lifetime."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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IS GOD ITALIAN?

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands that we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column.

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ QJ8
♥ AJ965
♦ K82
♣ AQ

WEST
♠ 7652
♥ K432
♦ J53
♣ K10

EAST
♠ 43
♥ Q1087
♦ Q1064
♣ 754

SOUTH
♠ AK109
♥ Void
♦ A97
♣ J98632

The bidding:
East: 2♣, South: 2♦, North: 2♥, South: 3♥, North: 4♥, South: 4NT, North: 5♥, South: 5♣, North: 5♦, South: 5♥, North: 5NT, South: 6♥.
Opening lead: Two of ♥.